CMART SET

from Real Life

> \$1,000 for your PICTURE Page 82



The most intimate concern of a woman's life-should not be shrouded in secrecy

I GNORANCE of physical facts never brought happiness to any woman.

Wrong information is often worse than no information, and feminine health is too important, too vital a matter to be regarded in a haphazard way. Unless there is frank discussion, there can be no real enlightenment. The modern woman wants to know the truth and then judge for herself. She wants the benefit of every new idea.

Recent advance in practice of feminine hygiene

The recent advances in the practice of feminine hygiene have all

come about as an answer to one existing evil. And that is the evil of poisonous antiseptics. Every physician and nurse is familiar with the effects when delicate tissues come in contact with bichloride of mercury or the compounds of carbolic acid. Yet until lately there was no other recourse for fastidious women who demanded an efficient cleansing agent-who

demanded a true antiseptic insurance against disease germs.

Every woman has reason to welcome Zonite

But fortunately this state of affairs is now a thing of the past. No longer need a woman run the risk of using powerful poisons for the purpose of feminine hygiene. No longer need she fear accidental poisoning in the home—a calamity all too common when the poison bottle is left within reach of little children who can not read the "skull-and-crossbones" warning. No longer need she face any of these dangers, for Zonite has arrived.

Zonite is a powerful antiseptic. In fact, Zonite is a real germicide, for it actually ki!/s germs. It doesn't

kills germs. It doesn't merely check germ-growth temporarily like the mild sweet-tasting and bubbling antiseptics. It kills all the germs present and prevents their multiplication. But besides being a powerful antiseptic, Zonite is an antiseptic which, in its many uses, is harmless to human beings.

The most remarkable feature of Zonite is its great germicidal strength. It has more that forty times the strength, for instance, of peroxide of hydrogen, and is far more powerful than any dilution of carbolic acid that can be safely used on the human body.

No wonder then, that Zonite has been welcomed with satisfaction. A powerful antiseptic that can even be held in the mouth! In fact, dental authorities are recommending it highly for preventive oral hygiene. Suggestion: ask your physician for his opinion of Zonite.

A booklet that every mother will want to give her daughter

The important subject of feminine hygiene is thoroughly covered in a dainty booklet prepared by the Women's Division expressly for the use and convenience of women. The information it contains is concise and to the point. A delicate subject is treated with scientific frankness, as it should be. Send for it. Read it. Pass it on to others who need it. Thousands of women are today running untold risks through the use of poisonous, caustic antiseptics. This book will bring all such women abreast of the times in a very important matter of health and comfort. The booklet is free. It is daintily illustrated and mailed in social correspondence envelope. Use the coupon below.

Zonite Products Company Postum Building, 250 Park Avenue New York, N. Y.

In Canada: 165 Dufferin St., Toronto



A WHOLE MEDICINE CHEST IN ITSELF

Zonite kills germs.
That is why Zonite is valuable for so many different purposes.
For prevention against

colds, coughs, grippe and influenza. For a daily mouthwash to

guard against pyorrhea and other gum infections. For cuts, wounds, burns and scratches. For use as a deodorant.

Remember that Zonite, though a very powerful antiseptic, is non-poisonous and absolutely safe



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PRODUCTS CO.
Postum Building
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New York, N. Y.

I should like to have a free
copy of the illustrated booklet you
have prepared (S-71)

In bottles, 50c and \$1 at drug stores Slightly higher in Canada

If your druggist cannot supply you, send 50c direct to the Zonite Products Co.

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VOL. 77 NO. 4

SMART SET

DECEMBER

True Stories from Real Life

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Although manuscripts and drawings are submitted at the owners' risk, every effort will be made to return those found unavailable



Beyond the Breakers

Here was a love too perfect to be broken; too delightful to question—and yet, as always, there were breakers ahead.

The biggest love is the one which asks the least and gives the most; the one that gives until it hurts deep down inside and makes you glad it hurts.

"Beyond the Breakers" is a story that will carry you out of yourself. It will bring again the thrill that comes once in a lifetime.

She didn't have the right to love him, and yet she KNEW he was her life's one love. Could she let the memory of it be spoiled, or would she fight her way "Beyond the Breakers"?

Read this great story of life in the January SMART SET

Published monthly by the Magus Magazine Corporation, at 119 West 40th Street, New York, N. Y., U. S. A. R. E. Berlin, President and Treasurer; John Brennan, Vice-President; R. T. Monaghan, Secretary.

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Vol. 77, No. 4.

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As the Salesman



The prospect's emphatic tone and curt manner are unmistakable "Im NOT Interested!" As the salesman facing this situation, what would you do? Accept defeat? Or?

SUPPOSE a man you called on greeted you in this fashion. Would you know how to remain completely the master of the situation? Would you still feel reasonably sure of an opportunity to tell your story?

It is no disgrace to answer "No" to these questions-to admit that this and similar problems have blocked your progress

But, it is an injustice to yourself, a rank injustice, to continue indefinitely on the same path, when the means are at your command to handle such situations easily and surely—to use deliberately the successful methods which others use only once in a while, by chance or accident.

For-mark this well-there is a fundamental rule of action that teaches exactly what to do to win the confidence of the man who has just said, "I'm not interested."

Why "trust to luck" when-

"Back of every successful action in business there are guiding principles, unchangeable laws."

Naturally you ask, "If this is true, how can I quickly acquire these principles?" The answer is, simply thru training that deals in basic principles -training that brings within your grasp not merely cold facts, not merely a fund of information, but the live, vital forces that mark the difference between success and mediocrity.

The LaSalle Problem Method of training for salesmen (and for men in every other branch of modern business) deals in such essentials, and only in essentials. Intensely practical, it combines the best that has been learned by thousands of salesmen in the "school of experience."

How Are Big Incomes Earned?

Isn't it true that the difference between, say, the \$50-a-week salesman and the \$200-a-week man lies chiefly in greater ability to meet just such situations as we pictured at the top of this page? Think that over a moment. Then consider that many of the men who take LaSalle training are successful before they enroll. Yet within a few months after starting they report their earning capacity doubled, tripled and often quadrupled, while those without previous sales experience become pace-setters for the "old-timers."

The secret, if it may be called a secret, is the fact that they learn to recognize the causes underlying success instead of blindly following the methods by which others have achieved success. Learn the principle and method that turns "I'm NOT interested!" into a receptive attitude.

Ask yourself this simple question: "Have I the necessary knowledge of the science and strategy of selling to make of myself the fullest success of which I am capable?"

For example, can you put down on paper the basic laws underlying every successful sale, the violation of any one of which unfailingly reduces or destroys your chances to make the sale?

These four principles-together with the plan which has enabled thousands of men and women to double their incomes—are fully explained in the interesting booklet which will be sent free to any earnest man or woman interested in the science of selling.

Compressed into this booklet, which may be slipped into the pocket and read during odd moments, you will find the most inspiring and helpful matter you ever read on this great subject of salesmanship. An application of the fundamental laws which this booklet discloses will result in an immediate increase in your sell-

ing power.
This booklet is our contribution to the general cause of better salesmanship. Fill out and mail the coupon. -INQUIRY COUPON-

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Chicago, Illinois Please sendme outline of your salary-doubling plan and full information regarding the opportunities in the business field I have marked below, all without obligation.

Leading to position as Sales Executive, Salesman, Sales Coach or Trainer, Sales Promotion Manager, Manufacturer's Agent, Solicitor, and all positions in retail, wholesale, or specialty selling.

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 Efficiency

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Name
Present Position
Address

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At the instant command of every LaSalle member is its entire force of business specialists—sound and practical business allies, at their best business allies, at their best when the emorgency is greatest. To them he is privileged to turn—at any time—for counsel regarding any problem in any department of business, whether that problem be concerned with production, management, finance, accounting, selling, transportation, business law. This Free Consultation Privilege does not cease with the completion of his training; it is his as long as he stays in business.



TE 7 Pieces
Genuine
Gut Glass



As an extra special offer to those who hurry their order for the 77-piece combination outfit offered below, we shall include in addition, absolutely free, this entire 7-piece set of GENUINE CUT GLASS, Pitcher of 2 qt. capacity and 6 tumblers of 9 oz. capacity. Each piece is pure, sparkingly clear, thin and dainly. Hand cut decora-

tions consisting of large floral design with appropriate foliage. Useful for water or other beverages; set makes a handsome display with your other glassware. A limited number given FREE—as an introductory offer during this special sale. Send coupon today while this offer lasts.

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44 Piece Bluebird Dinner Set

26 Piece Sheffield Plate Silver Set

> 7 Piece Bluebird Tablecloth and Napkins AND

7 Pieces Genuine Cut Glass FREE Besides

Com bination

44-Piece Bluebird Dinner Set Has deltinted design of Bluebirds and foliage in natural colors. Each piece is twice fired and has a snow flake white glaze of great brilliancy which cannot craze. The set consists of 6 cups, 6 saucers, 6 dinner plates, 9 in. diameter; 6 fruit saucers, 5 in. diameter; 6 catmeal nappies, 6 in. diameter; 6 saled plates, 6 in. diameter; 1 meat platter, 10% in. long; 1 round vegetable dish, 9 in. diameter; 1 cream pitcher, 1 pt.; 1 sugar bowl and cover, (2 pieces); 1 butter plate; 1 utility bowl, 1 pt.; 1 pickle dish, 6 in. in diameter. Each piece has a dainty blue edge and is beautifully shaped.

26 Piece Silver Set A silver service of Sheffield satisfaction. A pleasing pattern and popular polished finish. Each piece heavily silver plated. Set consists of 6 knives, 6 forks, 6 tablespoons, 6 teaspoons, 1 sugar shell, 1 butter knife. Packed in a convenient flannel roll as illustrated.

7 Piece Tablecloth and Napkins Alargo Tree I ablectoth and Napkins alarge cloth 60x60 in, and 6 napkins, 18x18 in., made of strong, durable linen finished cotton in pure snow flake white that will launder beautifully. All edges neatly scalloped with overlapped stitch in blue. Both tablecloth and napkins have handpainted design of Bluebirds and Apple Blossoms in their natural color, absolutely guaranteed fast colors. Harmonizes perfectly with dish set.

And remember:—The 7-Piece Genuine Cut Glass Set Is FREE, if you send at once. Shipping weight of entire outfit about 60 lbs.

Order by No G8498A. \$1.00 with coupon; \$2.00 monthly. Total Price \$19.90.

Free Bargain Catalog of Home Furnishings on credit sent with or without order. Ses coupon.

A sensational offer-to show how Straus & Schram smashes the spot cash price while A sensational offer—to show now Straus & Schram smashes the spot cash price while giving almost a year to pay! Here's an outfit of 77 pieces, things you need and use in your household every day—and a 7 piece set of Genuine Cut Glass FREE, if you order now—at a price you could not equal in your home town. We'll ship this complete outfit—84 pieces in all—direct to your home on 30 days trial for only \$1.00 down. Examine the quality, the beauty, the durability of each piece. Then compare prices—see how much more the local dealer asks for cash. After 30 days trial and use, if you're not delighted with the bargain, send the outfit back and we'll refund your dollar plus all transportation charges you paid. No obligation—not one penny of risk to you!

\$200 a Month If you decide to keep the outfit, start paying only \$2.00 a month until you've paid our rock bottom price—only \$19.90 for the entire 77 piece outfit with the 7 piece Cut Glass Set FREE. 84 pieces in all—only \$19.90—and almost a year to pay! Where else can you find a bargain like that and on such liberal terms?

Send Coupon

We have made up only a limited number of these combination outfits for this special sale. Send the coupon quick, while this offer lasts. Only \$1.00 deposit brings the out-fit on 30 days' trial. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. (We do not ship C. O. D.)

Straus & Schram, Dept. Chicago, Ill.

Straus & Schram, Dept. 1919

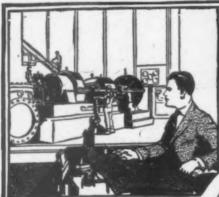
Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed find \$1. Ship special advertised 77 piece Combination Outfit, with 7-piece genuine cut glass set FREE. I am to have 30 days free trial. If I keep the Outfit, I will pay you \$2.00 monthly. If not satisfied, I am to return the Outfit with the 7-piece cut glass set within 30 days and you are to refund my money and any freight or express charges I paid.

77 piece Combination Outfit, No. 98498A, \$19.90.

Street, R. F. D. or Box No.....

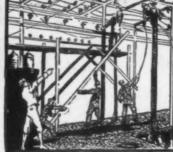
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Go into ELECTRICITY!

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Be an Electrical Expert. Go into the one great industry where it's easy to get to the top, to make money, to make a real success. You don't need money in the bank or "pull" to get ahead in Electricity—all you need is training, honest, complete training, such as I guarantee.

BIG JOBS OPEN Everywhere!

Look at the building business. Thousands of Electrical Contractors are getting rich. Their men are making \$10 to \$20 a day. Look at the fortunes being made in Radio. Look at the great factories building every kind of Electrical machin-ery. Why, the work of the world is being done by Electricity and the call for trained men exceeds the supply!

If you're now earning less than \$40

-if you want to be an ELECTRICAL EXPERT-if you want to step quickly into the class of men earning from \$60 to \$250 a week-write me at once! This million dollar school offers ambitious fellows their big opportunity to learn every branch of Electricity at home in spare time by a new, practical JOB-METHOD.

Learn Electricity Quick by Dunlap "Job-Method"

My training so simple a school-boy can grasp it instantly. Common schooling all you need. No previous experience required. But my students make rapid progress because I train them on actual Electrical jobs with standard-size tools and materials which I supply without extra cost. The first half of my training is APPLIED ELECTRICITY—a complete course in itself. In the second half I give you Electrical Engineering subjects. I give you Electrical Drafting, Radio, Automotive Electricity, and many other valuable subjects, all for one small price and on easy terms. small price, and on easy terms

Train for These Jobs THESE 4 BIG ELECTRICAL OUTFITS GIVEN

Power Plant Superintendent, \$5,000 to \$15,000 a year; Construction Foreman, \$3,500 to \$10,000 a year; Chief Electrician, \$3,000 to \$12,000 a year; Electrical Draftsman, \$3,000 to \$10,000 a year; Automotive Electrical Expert, \$3,500 to \$12,000 a year.

EARN MONEY While Learning

Dunlap-training combines moneymaking, practical experience,
and instruction IN A NEW
WAY. I call this "JOBMETHOD" and it gets results—more quickly and
easily than old-fashioned
ways of teaching. Early in
your training I give you
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Repair Work, etc.
I show you how
to get sparetime work
work you'll

to you without one penny of extra charge. Not a "premium"— not some-thing "FREE" to induce you to enroll. But costly, standard, full-size tools, materials and equipment. The man-size

motor of the same type as the bigfellows in a power plant. Not a toy, but a regular power-motor. Runs on
Alternating or Direct Current, or 32-volt farm electric system. Comes to you
knock-down, It's part of your job to wind the armature and assemble it. That's the way you learn every
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jobs FREE, not only to graduates, but to STUDENTS also. This JOB-SERVICE keeps in touch with great Electrical employers all over America. The day you enroll, this Job-Service Department registers you, finds out what kind of job you want, where you want to work, etc.

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Before you put your time and money into home-training, you want to know if it will lead to a better job and bigger pay. I will answer that in plain English. Get my catalog, my wonderful new guarantee, my sensational offers—quick! Get the facts about your opportunities in Electricity when you are Dumlap-trained and when you have the backing of the American School. Before you enroll for any home-training, get the facts about my training, so you can compare it intelligently with others. Write me today!

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I want to be an Electrical Expert. Please rush guarantee, job-service facts, complete information, money-saving offers.

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Ask any well posted Electrical Engineer about the quality and standards of AMERICAN SCHOOL home-training in Electricity.

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They Called Me a Human Clam But I Changed Almost Overnight

A S I passed the President's office I could not help hearing my name. Instinctively I paused to listen. "That human clam", he was saying, "That human clam", he was saying, "can't represent us. He's a hard worker, but he seems to have no ability to express

himself. I had hoped to make him a branch manager this fall, but he seems to withdraw farther and farther into his shell all the time. I've given up hopes of making anything out of him."

So that was it! That was the reason why I had been passed over time and again when promotions were being made! was why I was just a plodder—a truck horse for our firm, capable of doing a lot of heavy work, but of no use where brilliant performance was required. I was a failure

unless I could do what seemed impossiblelearn to use words forcefully, effectively and convincingly.

In 15 Minutes a Day

And then suddenly I discovered a new easy method which made me a powerful speaker almost overnight. I learned how to bend others to my will, how to dominate one man or an audience of thousands. Soon I had won salary increases, promotion,

popularity, power. Today I always have a ready flow of speech at my command. Today I always have I am able to rise to any occasion, to meet any emergency with just the right words. And I accomplished all this by developing

What 15 Minutes A Day

Will Show You How to talk before your club or lodge

How to propose and respond to toasts How to address Board Meetings How to make a political speech

How to tell entertaining stories How to make after-dinner speeches How to converse interestingly How to write letters

the natural power of speech possessed by severyone, but cultivated by so few—by simply spending 15 minutes a day in the privacy of my own home, on this most fascinating subject.

de respond to toasts oard Meetings oiltical speech aining stories redinner speeches interestingly ters goods rememory pur vocabulary elf-confidence winning personality in your will-power a clear, accurate four power of conter of any situation ter of any situation salesmanager's desk; another from the rank and file of political workers to a post of national importance; a timid, retiring, self-conscious man to change almost overnight into a popular and much applauded aftersuch making through this simple, easy, yet effective training.

There is no magic, no trick, no mystery about becoming a powerful and convincing talker. You, too, can conquer timidity, stage fright, self-consciousness and bashfulness, winning advancement in salary, popularity, scal standing, and success. Today business demands for the big, important high-salaried jobs, men who can dominate others—men who can dominate others—men who can dominate others—do as they wish. It is the power of forceful, convincing speech that cautes one man to jump from obscurity to the presidency of a great corporation; another from a small, unimportant territory to a another from the rank and file of political workers to a post of national importance; a timid, retiring, self-conscious man to change almost overnight into a popular and much applauded aftersuch and provide a powerful and convincing talker.

There is no magic, no trick, no mystery about becoming a powerful and convincing talker. You, too, can conquer timidity, stage fright, self-consciousness and bashfulness, winning advancement in salary, popularity, stage fright, self-consciousness and bashfulness. Winning advancement in salary, popularity, stage fright, self-consciousness and bashfulness. Winning advancement in salary, popularity, st

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How to sell more goods
How to train your memory
How to enlarge your vocabulary
How to develop self-confidence
How to acquire a winning personality
How to strengthen your will-power
and ambition
How to become a clear, accurate
thinker
How to develop your power of concentration
How to be the master of any situation

Send For This Amazing Book

This new method of training is fully described in a very interesting and informative booklet which is now being sent to everyone mailing the coupon below. This book is called, How to Work Wonders With Words. In it you are shown how to conquer

stage fright, self-consciousness, timidity, bashfulness and fear—those things that keep you silent while men of lesser ability get what they want by the sheer power of convincing speech. Not only men who have made millions but thousands have sent for this book—and are unstinting in their praise of it. You are told how to bring out and develop your priceless "hidden knack"—the natural gift within you—which will win for you advancement in position and salary, popularity, social standing, power and real success. You can obtain your copy absolutely free by sending the coupon.



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I Can Teach You to Sing Like This: -Eugene Feuchtinger

I do not mean I can make a Caruso out of every man-or a Mary Garden out of every woman,-but

> I can teach you in a few short months a basic secret of voice development which Caruso discovered only after years of persistent effort.

ERE IS THE SECRET!

This is a picture of the human throat, showing the all important Hyo-Glossus

muscle. Biographers of the great Caruso tell us of his wonderful tongue control. Caruso himself speaks of it in his own writings, as the basic secret of vocal power and beauty. But tongue control depends entirely on the development of your Hyo-Glossus muscle.



The Hyo-Glossus in your throat can be strengthened just as surely as you can strengthen the muscles of your arm-by exercise.

Professor Eugene Feuchtinger, noted vocal scientist, famous in Europe before coming to America, was the first man to isolate and teach a method of developing the Hyo-Glossus.

If you are ambitious to sing or speak, or merely improve your voice for social or business purposes, here is your opportunity. If you suffer from stammering, stuttering or other vocal defect, here is a sound, scientific method of relief. Under the guidance of Prof. Feuchtinger himself, you can practice these wonderful silent exercises in the privacy of your own home. For Physical Voice Culture is ideally adapted to instruction by correspondence.

100% Improvement Guaranteed

Thousands of men and women have already received the benefits of Physical Voice Culture. If you will practice faithfully, your entire satisfaction is guaranteed. In fact, if your voice is not doubled in power and beauty, your money will be refunded. You alone are to be the judge.

ee Book wonderful new book, "Physical Voice Cul-

ture". It will open your eyes to the possibilities of your own voice. It will indeed be a revelation to you. Get it without fail. Mail the coupon now.

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Please send m	e FREE, your new	Sunnyside Ave., Studi book, "Physical Vonat interests me mo	pice Culture". I
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Address			
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Hazelton, Pa.
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OklahomaCity, Okla.
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London, Ont., Can.
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Seattle, Wash.
Oak Bay, B. C., Can.
Ferndale, Mich.
Lawton, Okla.
Bay City, Mich.
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Joplin, Mo.
Drumright, Okla.
Lima, Ohlo
Victoria, B. C.

\$2500 Reward for the Capture of an Unknown Man!

WICE he had entered the St. Clair Mansion. What was he after? Who? What was in danger? Berteau, the famous detective, had warned St. Clair that the mysterious marauder would come again. And now—a noise in the passage! The creak of an opening door. A shot in the dark! A capture!

Is this wounded stranger the mysterious intruder? Who could tell? Yet Berteau identified that man without hesitation and won the \$2500 reward.

How did he do it? Easy enough for the Finger Print Expert. He is the specialist, the leader, the cream of detectives. Every day's paper tells their wonderful exploits in solving mysterious crimes and convicting dangerous criminals.

More Trained Men Needed

The demand for trained men by governments, states. cities, detective agencies, corporations and private bureaus is becoming greater every day. Here is a real opportunity for YOU. Can you imagine a more fascinating line of work than this? Often life and death depend upon finger print evidence—and big rewards go to the experts. Many experts can earn regularly from \$3,000 to \$10,000 per year.

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And now you can learn the secrets of this science at home in your spare time. Any man with common school education and average ability can become a Finger Print Detective in a surprisingly short time.

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For a limited time we are making a special offer of a professional Finger Print Outfit; absolutely Free, and Free Course in Secret Service Intelligence. Mastery of these two kindred professions will open a brilliant career for you. Write quickly for fully illustrated free book on Finger Prints which explains this wonderful training in detail. Don't wait until this offer has expired—mail the coupon now. You may never see this announcement again! You assume no obligation—you have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Write at once—address

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City and State....

What Is That LURE



of Peggy Joyce?

Would you like to know the secrets of Peggy's world famous charm? Then read Photoplay for November.

Do you ever hope to be so attractive, so appealing, so wistful, so desirous that any man would say "Here, darling, have a pearl necklace and don't look so sad?"

Wouldn't you like to know what goes on behind Peggy Joyce's limpid blue eyes that brings fortunes to her feet, that has made her the favor of royalty, the toast of Europe, and who our newspapers call our most fascinating American vampire?

Then read about her in Photoplay before you see her on the Screen. Perhaps you will get some ideas.

Get the November issue of Photoplay from your newsdealer today

Photoplay Magazine

for

November

ON SALE NOW





Sallow Complexion

Has your skin that sallow, faded, washedout appearance? Does it seem dark and "muddy," to lack tone. to be colorless, murky and lifeless?



Sagging Muscles

Are the muscles of your face and neck be-ginning to sag? Do yo see signs of "jowis" and premature ageing?



Blemishes

Are you beginning to think you will never be free from pimples, blackhends, blemyou will never be free from pimples, blackheads, blemishes or enlarged pores? Has your skin begun to lose tone and become rough and coarse? Are you constantly worried as to whether you can get your skin into passable condition for certain dances and parties that you want to go



Pouches

Have you pouches beneath the eyes— puffiness at the sides of the chin flabby bags below . the cheeks?



Wrinkles

Are deep lines forming near the nose and corners of the mouth? Little groups of crows-feet at the eyes? Tired lines of worry starting to crease your face? crease your face?

Which of These Five Skin Worries Hide Your Beauty?

Here are five definite skin worries that make naturally attractive women look commonplace that make young women look middle-aged and make middle-aged women look old. Which of these five hide YOUR beauty-make you look older than you really are? Read how easy it now is to banish these worries-to regain the natural beauty that lies hidden in your skin.

O you know why these are trying times for the woman who doesn't bring out and make the most of her natural hidden Because there are more beautiful women in America today than ever beforeand people will make comparisons! And why are there more beautiful women? Because women today don't accept obstacles standing in the way of their attractiveness any more than men accept obstacles barring their success!

The best knowledge that the scientific world can offer has massed right behind

women in their search. Here, for example, are five dread skin worries which every woman knows can rob her of her true beauty and make her look years older than her

"These five-Blemishes, Sallow Complexion, Sagging Muscles, Wrinkles, and Pouches -rob me of my birthright of youth and loveliness," women say. And now Science has stepped forward and said: "Here, then, is a new and easy way to rid yourself of these five worries—to quickly bring out your



FREE!

The Coupon below will bring you a beautifully illustrated 24-page booklet describing this new method developed to end these Five Skin Worries—or cost you nothing. Just jot down your name and address and mail this coupon today, No obligation. No risk, No representative will call upon you. This Coupon just gives us permission to send you this valuable bool let with our compilments.

If This New Secret Does Not Bring Out Your Skin's Hidden Beauty in 15 Days-Then Pay Nothing!

No matter how blemished your skin may be, how dull and sallow, how spoiled by lines, open pores, sagging muscles or pouches-no matter how many methods you have tried in vain—this new secret either brings out your skin's hidden beauty or costs you

Practically every woman in America has heard of Susanna Cocroft and of her tremendous health and beauty activities. 600,000 women know from wonderful personal experience. And now this famous woman, in co-operation with other experts, has just developed an easy and radically different way for any woman to recapture the clear, fresh complexion of childhood, free from unsightly sallowness, pimples and blemishes, and the agesigns of sagging muscles, pouches and wrinkles. The new discovery is entirely different from anything you have ever seen or heard of—taking only three minutes before bedtime and accomplishing its amazing results while you sleep. Knowing that, in spite of the gigantic growth of beauty preparations of all kinds, complexion worries were still prevalent, Susanna Cocroft approached this

problem from an entirely different angle-and the

problem from an entirely different angle—and the complete story of the new idea is given in a beautiful 24-page booklet, which will be sent without any obligation whatsoever.

Take a mental inventory right now and see which of these five skin worries are hiding your own beauty and attractiveness. Mail the coupon at once. Read why Susanna Cocroft's new method is guaranteed to end these troubles or cost you nothing whatever. Today it has almost come to a point that if a woman is not attractive—if she looks older than she really is, then it is to some extent due to her own failure to investigate the methods developed to solve these very problems for her. Don't tolerate any of these five worries because of any inaction on your own part. Mail this coupon at once.

Thompson-Barlow Co.

Thompson-Barlow Co.
Dept. F-14912
130 West 31st St., New York City

Thompson-Barlow, Inc., Dept. F-14912 130 West 31st Street, New York City

Please send me your new book, "The Overnight Way to a New Complexion." Also full details of your special free proof offer that enables me to test this new home treatment without risking

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THE biggest things in the world are the littlest things. The biggest lives are often the humblest.

Late fall has always brought a peculiar sense of rest and peace to me. Somehow it seems as if all nature has paused for a moment in its constant struggle against the elements. Spring and summer have come and gone. The harvests have been gathered and the fields are sere and brown. The whole countryside seems to be waiting for something. Another cycle of life has passed and the winter is coming.

No one outstanding thing has caused this change. No sudden growth, nor single day can be accounted as more important than any other. This thing, this change which we all feel, which we see has taken place, is made up of ten thousand times ten thousand little things. It is the glorification of the commonplace.

That to me is the greatest thing in the world and one of the hardest things in the world to realize. The biggest thing in the world is the glorification of the littlest things.

WE HAVE a magnificent custom in our United States. Once each year we pause in the midst of our busy lives to give thanks for the bounties of the year. We do not pick a single gigantic thing which the Creator has done, but the myriad little things which have led to another winter, and another plentiful harvest We are taking our own, peculiarly American way to glorify the commonplace. And so far as I know, every religious faith in the whole nation, takes part in this great day of homecoming, and of Thanks.

I think it is wonderful that once in a while we pause to take stock of the blessings we are too apt to take for granted. There may have been a drouth—but it ended before it was too late to save the crops! There may have been a terribly wet season—but there were days when the planting could be done, and the harvesting completed!

Do you grasp the thought that I have tried so hard to convey to you? The biggest thing in the world is the littlest thing. And the biggest lives are often the humblest.

THAT is why SMART SET has cause for Thanksgiving this year. We have chosen the little dramas of everyday life—the little lives of ordinary people and given them to you. Every life has its purple moments if we stop to recognize them. Every man has a soul which rises to great heights when the occasion demands it. If he doesn't—he is a pitiful craven.

And because it is glorifying the littlest things in the world, SMART SET has grown into one of the biggest. We have dared to keep our stories clean in spite of everything -because we believe in YOU. We believe that worthwhile people are idealists and that they love to see anvone fight for an ideal. I know I do. And I believe that you will help me to carry the idea of the new SMART SET to other people. If they read it they will enjoy it. I think the fact that we have grown to half a million circulation in a little over a year proves that. But we mustn't let up in our efforts on the littlest detail—because the littlest thing in the world, properly done, is oftentimes the biggest.

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What ARE the things that "show age" in a woman?

By Annette Kellermann



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NE can see tell-tale signs of "approaching age" in nine out of ten women between the years of twentyfive and forty-five. In fact, I have seen girls of eighteen who exhibited signs of age that should not appear even in a woman of forty.

In some women, lines appear around the mouth or eyes. In others, there is a slight sagging of the skin beneath the chin. In others, there are tell-tale "creases" in the throat. The fine satiny skin of youth begins to look unhealthy and drawn. The busts become heavy and hanging. In some women, unlovely layers of fat appear in different parts of the body. The hair greys prematurely, or becomes thin. Eyes, instead of being clear and bright, are "muddy" and lack luster. Often there is a protruding abdomen.

These are only some of the apparent physical effects of "ageing".

Women Old Before Their Years

Worse than these, are the indirect effects. For all the "zip" and zest of life seems to have departed from a woman in this condition. She is only She arises "tired" in the morning, "half-alive". and remains "tired" all day. Often, with nothing organically wrong with her, she is really a "sick woman". She is a prey to constant petty ailments; she is subject to headaches or to indigestion or to nervousness. She becomes ill-tempered and irritable. Her whole attitude toward life changes. The bubbling laughter and gayety of youth no longer well up within her. She no longer wants to play; to see people, to go places, to dance, to engage in sports. She ceases to love, and of course to be She acts old, seems old, feels old,-and

Yes, she is old, no matter what her years. For here is a simple truth that few women realize: youth, with all its glory and charm, is not determined by years, but by the condition of one's body. And such women, either because they do not care or do not know better, allow their bodies to become

It is unnecessary. It is UNNECESSARY! I

Is it necessary for a woman to show early signs of approaching age? Annette Kellermann says emphatically, "No!" She has proved it in her own case and with many thousands of women. Find out about her methods. Send for her free book, "The Body Beautiful."

should like to repeat that a thousand times and to engrave it in the hearts and in the minds of women everywhere. You can control your "physiological age"-so easily. If you will but give a little thought to it, a little time to it no more than fifteen minutes a dayl-not only can you eradicate the unhappy signs of "premature age" that may have already appeared, but you can prevent them from appearing for years. True age ultimately is inevitable, yes; but why not grow old sweetly and gracefully, instead of prematurely, grossly and tragically!

Once An Invalid

I always cite myself as the most striking example of the fact that a woman can have exactly the kind of body she wants, as lovely a body, as youthful a body, as strong a body!

I have had the happiness often of being referred to as "the most beautifully-formed woman in the world." My achievements in the world of athletics and in the world of the theater, are well-known. But few people know that when I was young, I had to wear braces on my limbs: that my body was puny and weak; that I was practically had eighten invalid. bed-ridden invalid. I made my body what it is

And by the same methods you too can make your body what you want it to be. Perhaps you haven't exactly the same ambition that I had. If you had, you could accomplish what I did. But at any rate your ambition must be not to grow ald before your time; not to let your body deteriorate into a misshapen, malformed thing; not to be forever subject to unnecessary pains and

And that mild ambition is so easy of attainment, with a little effort and a little attention, that I say that women who "grow old before their time" deserve every drop of the dregs of unhappiness that they suffer. For it is all their own fault.

How Many Actresses "Keep Young"

My methods of "keeping young", of developing the body, of molding it as one desires—are entirely my own! They have arisen from my own study and experience. They have worked, not only in my case, but with many, many thousands of women. Innumerable actresces, to whom youth and loveliness are economically so important, have been "keeping young" for years by my methods. This is true, also, of many famous society women.

Is it presumptuous to think that if I have helped so many thousands of other women—in every strata of life and of every age, from sixteen to eighty/—that I can be of real help to you in this direction? I promise to make a "new woman" of you. In fact, if you will let me, I will proce to you—by a ten days' trial of my methods—that I can make a "new woman" of you; and if you are not convinced, the trial will have cost you nothing.

Send For Free Book

If you feel that your body is not what it should be,—not to strong nor so healthful—that it has defects of form that should be changed—above all, that it is an affine body, ageing unnecessarily before its time—I suggest that you send for a copy of my little book, "The Body Beautiful".

This explains in detail what my methods are: it shows you what you can hope to do by showing what other women, in your condition, have done. To send for it involves you in no obligation to take instruction from me. That will be left to your judgment. Simply mail the coupon below or a letter, and a copy of the book will be sent to you forthwith. Address:

Annette Kellermann, Inc., Suite 4012, 225 West 39th St., New York, N. Y.

Annette Kellermann, Inc., Suite 4012, 225 West 39th St., New York, N. Y. I am interested in your announcement. Please send me, entirely free of cost and without obligation, your book "The Body Beautiful" and explain the "trial plan" you mentioned.

Name	
Address	

City State

Lights Red

Danger Signals Were Invented to Save Lives. When You See One It's Time to Stop!

Another Slant on a Problem

We've All Worried About.

ED, throughout all recent history, has meant danger. It is symbolic of war and bloodshed. Whenever we find people using it as a symbol it is well to avoid them. But that isn't what I want to talk about.

We have been going through a series of lightning changes in our views of life. Some are strong enough to withstand the wildest of the results, but for a large number of people who seem to be carried away by influences they are incapable of understanding, it is time we began to hang red lights at the danger points.

If I had my way there would be a red lantern swinging before the door of every divorce

and listened first -there would be a more sanely conducted proceeding on the inside. Of course divorce is necessary sometimes; but that isn't the point either.

When we get to thinking so much about our individual rights that we forget everything else, the world is in pretty bad shape as a working proposition. This year we have seen the spectacle of a great ballteam going to pieces because certain players got exaggerated ideas of their own importance. Some of us even remember a man who got it into his head that he could conquer the

world. He lives in Holland now. And it's such a relief to get a story which tells us how people worked together for the good of all, instead of every man for himself — catch-as-catch-can — that I dont want anybody to miss the same feeling of exultation I got.

It will do you good to read" The Third Angle" in the January issue. You can't help feeling better toward the whole world when you see the whale of a fight that some real live, flesh-and-blood people in this country of ours put up playing square with each other.

> There's another story, too, entitled, "Part Music and Part Tears," that's going to make you think a lot about

court. If people stopped and looked this life of ours and the way we are headed. And there's a touch of Christmas in the story, "The Mother Who Went to Heaven."

> I CAN'T tell you too much, because it would spoil your pleasure in reading them; but if you enjoy them as much as I did, I know you'll pass them along to someone else after you're through.

> Don't think I'm trying to moralize, for I'm not. All I'm trying to do is to get you to do a little thinking about certain influences which appear a whole lot stronger than they really are.

> > THE EDITOR.



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Miss Georgia Ingram Rainbo Gardens Chicago

"I Can Teach You to Dance Like This"

"And you can study under my personal direction right in your own home."

PEW PEOPLE living outside of New York, Chicago, or the great European capitals have the opportunity to study dancing with any of the really great masters. And the private, personal instructions of even average teachers range upward from \$10 an hour.

But now, the famous Sergei Marinoff has worked out a system of home instruction. You can learn classic dancing in all its forms—interpretive, Russian, ballet, aesthetic, Greek—at a mere fraction of the cost of lessons in the studio.

A Fascinating Way to Learn

It is so easy and so delightful. Just put the record on the phonograph, slip into the dainty little dancing costume (furnished free with the Course) and you are ready to start. Now comes the voice of Marinoff himself instructing you, telling you what to do, while the spirited rhythm of the music inspires grace and confidence in you. And guided by the charts, the photographs of Marinoff and his students and the easy text, you master the technique of the dance.

Your progress is rapid and soon you develop confidence so that you are eager to dance before an audience.

FREE-

Dancing Costume, Phonograph Records, Complete Studio Outsit

A dainty costume designed so as to permit free use of the limbs, ballet slippers, everything you need to help you with your lessons comes FREE with the course. Simple charts and beautiful photographs illustrate every lesson while phonograph records and simply worded text teach the essential points of technique. You can learn to dance, as you have always longed to dance, and your lessons will be pleasant and easy.

Charm and Grace

The natural beauty of the body is developed, an exquisite grace and flexibility cultivated by correct training in classic dancing. For better health—for greater beauty—for poise—for slenderness—dance! Dancing is the pleasantest form of exercise.

As a means of developing grace in children, dancing is unsurpassed. And with my method, mother and daughter can grow graceful together.

And Fortune—and Glory

The popularity of classic dancing grows greater every day. It has won its place in American life.

For the theatre—vaudeville—the movies—civic and college pageants—for private social affairs—everywhere

the dancer is in demand. Startling salaries are paid. And those who can dance for charitable entertainments or for the pleasure of their friends quickly become social favorites. In addition, one is so much more desirable as a partner in ball room dances when she has developed a sense of rhythm, and cultivated suppleness through classic dancing.

Write to Sergei Marinoff

Everyone interested in dancing should write to Sergei Marinoff at once and get complete information concerning his splendid system of home instruction in Classic Dancing. This information is free. Send the coupon today.

M. SERGEI MARINOFF
School of Classic Dancing
Studio20-69, 1924 Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago

Studio 20-69 Please send	crinoff, Classic Dancing, 1924 Sunnyside Ave., Chicago me full information about your ourse in Classic Dancing. I under- a is absolutely FREE.
Name	>>>>
Address	



They say it behind your back

THAT'S when they talk about you when you're not listening or when you're not present.

And, if you're a sensitive person, these are the things

He knew or felt that he was being talked about. And that irritate you most.

by two men whom he had regarded as his best friends. The thing began to prey on his mind -made him very uncomfortable.

You, yourself, raiely know when you have hightosis (unpleasing bresch). This's the maidious thing about it. And even your close it friends won't tell you.

Sometimes, of course, halitosis comes from some deep-seated organic disorder that requires professional advice. But usually—and fortunately—halitosis is only a local condition that yields to the and fortunately—halitosis is only a local condition that yields to the regular use of Listerine as a mouth wash and gargle. It is an organic thing that this well-known antiseptic that has been in use interesting thing that this well-known antiseptic that has been in use for years for surgical dressings, possesses these unusual properties as the safe and politic side. It puts you on the safe and politic side. It puts you on the safe and politic side. Listerine halts food fermentation in the mouth and leaves the breath sweet, fresh and clean. Not by substituting some other odds but by really removing the old one. The Listerine odor uself quickly disappears.

This safe and long-trusted antiseptic has dozens of different uses:

disappears.

This safe and long-trusted antiseptic has dozens of different uses:

This safe and long-trusted antiseptic has dozens of different uses:

Your druggist post the little circular that comes with every bottle. Your druggist never in bulk never

A CHALLENGE

We'll make a little water with you that if you try one tube of Listerine Tooth Paste, you'll come back for more.

LARGE TUBE-25 CENTS

VOL 77

SMART SET

True Szories from Real Life

DECEMBER 1925



Thanksgiving By HARRY LEE

Thanksgiving again!" Maw says, says she, Knitting across the hearth from me, Fire crackling, sting of the snow On frosty panes, winds whining low—Ill of 'em married and gone away, Keeping their own Thanksgiving Day. "Thanksgiving's a sad day," Maw says, says she, "For folks that's forgotten, Like you and me!"

Somehow the words seemed so awfut true—Wasn't much left, I could say or do—Wasn't much left, but to hitch my chair, Up close beside her, and just sit there! Then sudden—the wind—a whirl of snow—Bells and hoofs—and a shouted "Whoa!" The door flew open, A rousing cheer: "Ilo. Dad! Ho, Mother! We're here—all here!"

There was all of 'em, big as life,
Nell with her Tommy, Ted with his wife,
The twins we'd nick-named 'Rub' and 'Dub,
Elmira's baby, cute as a cub;
Our oldest, John, with the sears he's bore,
And the empty sleeve, since the foreign war!
And Maw and me!
It'e was young folks then!
Young! And the children—
Little again!

The old house seemed like it laughed out loud!
And the old stairs, too—with that trompin' crowd!
And after they all was tucked in bed,
And Mother and me was alone, she said—
We was stirrin' batter and kneadin' dough,
And choppin' raisins and that, y'know—
"Thanksgiving's a glad day."
Maw says, says she,
"For folks that's remembered—
Like you and me!"





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We first learn the lines, then act the part, then live the role.

The oftener we play the part the sooner it claims us as its own.

Socrates said: "The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear."

An old fable tells of a cat changed by Jupiter into a beautiful young woman.

SHE charmed everyone and was the belle of the ball until a mouse ran across the floor. She made a leap for it and her true nature was shown. It had remained unchanged, although her form had been altered.

There is no successful way of being transformed in the wink of an eye from the kind of a person you are to the kind of a person you would like to be.

It comes about only by a process of slow evolution.

It requires a conscious effort to act the kind of a person you desire to become, and gradually you will acquire its characteristics.

One of the best aids in this evolution is to frequent the society of recognized superiors.

Here your best qualities crop out, and soon you will be acting the part.





. for weren't they all high-bred children, from families of the elite?

1001 NIGHTS

ONE of us paid much attention to Jane Handerson when the stage manager motioned her to step into the Palm Beach number at one of the routine rehearsals. Follies girls may still be a novelty to out-of-town buyers, pop-eyed working girls. Johns, and fiction-writers, but to the other Follies girls they are just people until the human equations have had their chance to operate and each one makes her place among her sisters, according to her individual characteristics and real ability.

The personnel keeps changing in so numerous a group. So there is nothing unusual about one girl dropping out and another dropping in.

This one, in her professional practise clothes, obviously no tyro at the game, though new to the ranks of the "glorified," seemed to answer to type, one of the several molds in which all Ziegfeld-selected girls will be found.

Jane was a "medium," trim, brunette, young enough but not underdone.

She seemed to understand the language of stage technique and dance direction, and had palpably served her season or more in a swift show. She was replacing a

girl who looked and acted very much like her, and who had been given her two-weeks' notice for insubordination and impudence.

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So this new one would work next to me in several of the formations, as she must step into all the spaces left vacant by the other.

She asked me a question under her breath in the action, something about the angle at which the propparasols were carried. I showed her. After that we were acquainted. She picked up the complicated details of the whole revue readily, and worked in a staccato, clean-cut manner. I rather liked her. She didn't push forward, didn't "wise-crack," didn't borrow my make-up and didn't strut herself.

Her backstage etiquette was easy and her attitude affable.

SHE told me she had been in a night-club cabaret outfit, one of the gyp-and-trim places of papier mache and synthetic champagne. Broadway and its immediate side-streets have dozens of them, and some reap fortunes with their combinations of pretty girls, forbidden drinks.



"Just a minute, dearie! Where are you going?"

The First
Chapter
of the
Greatest
True Story
Ever
Written

on Broadway

"hot" orchestras and the appeal to men of the dangerous ages—under thirty and over forty.

To be one of the group in that particular club set Jane out as being almost "glorified" already. That resort came nearer to giving a girl that certain stamp than any other institution had ever approached in the quarter of a century during Flo Ziegfeld's hand-picked beauties have remained in a class unique.

So the transition was a natural one, and Jane became one of us. She had worked in several musical comedies

before her elevation into nightlife aristocracy, therefore, knew the shifts and signals of "the racket," as we called our profession between ourselves.

Jane wasn't unusually talkative. At times I fancied she seemed a bit reticent, even morose. But when she had her streaks of conversation, she let me into her private life enough to make me tut-tut a

bit—to myself. The girl was "stepping." She was no child, who didn't understand what she was doing. This was perhaps worse—she was a girl of mature consciousness, who had seen the peaks and depths of the storied temptations of wine, men and song, and was traveling the place with eyes open, not because she knew no better.

I have seen so many youngsters, in my brief years on Broadway, swept dizzily off their feet by the glittering, persistent lures which are thrust at all attractive girls in "show business," most especially those who wear the

proud Ziegfeld brand, and to be seen with whom establishes a rounder, a cake-eater, a spender, a wine-buyer, a cradle-snatcher or a nice old bovfriend as being in the big league of the big burg.

Some of them get over it after they have reaped a few consequences; some keep at it, changing only their views and motives, but not their ways.

"I'm fed up on this dive, anyway
... I've lost my appetite for high
s'ciety ... an' that goes for your
fat mug, too, Mrs. Queen. I want
to get out o' here, where I can
breathe fresh air."

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Broadway
Life



RUTH FALLOWS

Here was a girl who knew what it was all about, who drank too much and too often because she loved it, who lived at a rate a dozen times her honest income because she had an urge for extravagant luxuries, and who had to get the money somehow; who worked in theatres and cabarets only because she had learned that the sort of men who lay carpets across sidewalks for pretty girls wants them theatrical—the same one who would smile a smart man out of a pearl necklace couldn't cry him out of a pair of woolen stockings if she were plugging a switchboard, running an adding machine or otherwise selling her time in some conventional, irreproachable occupation.

Jane lived at a toppy hotel. She had a string of "live ones," most of whom she had met in the quick intimacy of the night-club, where the girls are encouraged to "mingle," and where the pulsating syncopes, the alcoholic "kick," the atmosphere of roistering and the intriguing camaraderies of cheating the commandments and the amendments radiate that "good fellowship" which isn't always as good as it rings when one talks about it—or

There was no preferred one among her admirers.

Whichever of them 'phoned first for her open time, if he were the sort who didn't forget the basic truth that a lady must live, was welcome.

in bu

THEY dragged her about after the performances—to roadhouses, restaurants, speak-easies, apartment parties. Over Sundays she usually week-ended somewhere on Long Island, the fastest piece of earth on this continent, with others of her sort and their male complements. Mondays she always had a headache, and Mondays we always had rehearsals. There was nothing surprising to me in Jane's habits of life—except that she didn't crack under the strain. I had seen many other girls go the same gait; and had seen more than a few wreck their strong young bodies as well as their weak young souls.

Half the season went by and I grew to know Jane quite well, and grew to be decidedly fond of her. Despite my disapproval of her ways, which I did not stress in our discussions, that being regarded as out of order in the best dressing-room circles of glorified aristocracy, I formed a spontaneous and genuine affection for my naughty side-kick. I had never associated with her any

further than the end of the stage-door alley or a bite in a nearby cafeteria between a late drill and show-time. but I felt I knew her well. And Jane surely warmed to me and confided to me her most sacred secrets.

I lived in a plain little apartment, all by myself, and saved enough from my salary to substantially help keep my mother and our flock. But I was in tune with Jane, despite our diametrically different views on so many things; I understood, even if I couldn't approve.

Jane paid me the compliment not to take issue with my choice of conduct, and, if I didn't try to reform lane, neither did she attempt to corrupt me.

My concern about her physical well-being, however, truly disturbed me. And it was not fardifficult and strenuous dancing number, Jane gave way, wilted and fell limply into my arms. The formation by the practised chorus was instantly switched to cover us and I got her off without the audience ever noticing anything. Jane was what we call "out. The head wardrobe mistress administered smelling salts and the rest of

Jane did not respond vigorously; she had no come-back. "Take her home," said the stage manager. "You're excused from the rest of the show. Get that girl out of the house.

The doorman called a taxi and two of the scene shifters helped me carry Jane in. She was partly conscious now. I was about to name her hotel, but a sudden impulse made

me change my mind, and I gave the driver my address, instead. Turn to page 1231



23

Here Is a Strange Story of Mother Love and Pride. It Will Give You a New Thrill.

OW that it is all over, I am moved to write this love story because I can't help wondering what other women would have done in Dora Ravenwood's shoes. Or if all girls would have acted like Margaret. At the time I was extremely bitter, condemning Margaret with every breath I drew, and yet in calmer moments I'm not so sure she is to be censured. As for Dora, she is either the bravest mother or the most imaginative woman in the world.

Nowadays when love is mentioned the younger generation right away thinks of Valentino or of one of the cinema stars with a million admirers. The older folks, perhaps, are reminded of Romeo and Juliet, Abelard and Heloise, or the tragedy

of Beatrice and Dante. Young love and frustrated happiness! Yet there is human affection which isn't just passion, and thinking it over I'm not so sure that a mother's isn't the greatest love of all—even when it spells loneliness and heartbreak.

Professionally, Dora Ravenwood was the Princess Fedora, a charming and cultured woman, who spoke half-a-dozen languages and had appeared before the crowned heads of Europe. In her spare moments she read serious books and she had even contributed to various magazines, her poetry being especially liked. I had known her for sixteen years, and while she did many things which I characterized as foolish—foolish because she always got the worst of the bargain—Dora was, to me, the one woman in the world, the only woman I ever loved. Perhaps this feeling makes me take the Princess' part, and condemn the daughter, even when I know that Margaret was blissfully unconscious of her mother's history.

To go back twenty years, Dora had married her manager, Jack Ravenwood, at the very beginning of her career when she was regarded in show circles as a gold mine. I never saw him, but from his pictures he was the dark, dashing type of man, the very kind to fascinate a romantic young girl, and from her portraits, Margaret is much like her father. Before I appeared on the scene Ravenwood had squandered all the money Dora had saved, deserted her several times, and finally had gone to Australia to claim a fortune which an old uncle had left him. When he came into this money, Ravenwood grew unbearable, ridiculing his wife's profession and even going so far as to make fun of Dora to her face.

But he was a gentleman by birth, with excellent family connections in England, and with his uncle's fortune to



"Come along, Garry! Really, I don't care tor

For the First

command, Dora began to dream big dreams for her little girl. Margaret, of course, would never follow in her mother's shoes. She was Ravenwood all over again—a fine, lusty baby even at two. From the day of her birth, Dora worshiped her daughter, and so it was only natural, perhaps, that she should let Ravenwood take Margaret to Australia with him.

"I didn't want my baby to grow up in this atmosphere, Martin," the Princess said to me, years afterward. "Yes, the show business is good enough for me, my friend, but Margaret—Jack's people are gentlefolk and I wanted my little girl to be a lady."

I can understand that, though if the Princess Fedora isn't a lady, then I'd like to see one.

In less than five years Jack Ravenwood gambled away every penny of his inheritance at the tables on the Riviera and then he got into a drunken brawl and was shot to death. Margaret was eight years old at the time and



because Dora was to be my teacher. I was selfish enough not to want Margaret entering our Eden, and when Dora showed me her daughter's latest photographs I was speechless with surprise and dismay.

"She is like her father," the Princess said proudly. "Isn't she adorable, Martin? Sometimes I can scarcely believe she is mine. But she is, all mine, now. The question is, what's to be done

about her future?"

Although eight years old. Margaret had never been to school, having wandered during her father's lifetime from Monte Carlo to Ostend and from Biarritz to Carlsbad, with the gaming tables rather than the

> At Ravenwood's death, the good sisters of St. Mary Magdalene had taken charge of his little daughter, and after considering the case Dora decided to allow Margaret to remain at the convent until she came East in the

> > spring at least.

ARGARET, however. remained with the sisters for five years, during which time mother and daughter never met. In fact, the Princess hadn't seen her baby since she went to Australia with her father, a roly-poly youngster of three, but she was saving for her, banking most of the money she earned against the day of Margaret's home-coming.

"By the time my little girl is eighteen. Martin, I shall have enough put by to last us the rest of our lives," Dora whispered happily. "I shall retire

then, and Margaret and I will spend our days together in the country. Books, my poetry, and my baby,—what more could any woman desire, Martin?"

"I had hoped," I pointed out, "that there might be room for me.'

But she wouldn't marry me then, nor make any promises for the future. Everything depended on Margaret; the sun rose and set with this little girl.

It was when Margaret was thirteen that Dora considered bringing her home. They were corresponding regularly now, and her daughter's letters were the most prized possessions that she owned. George and Mary of England had given the Princess Fedora a beautiful

them. Dora cried a little over her husband's tragic end, but it was her

daughter, alone and without money, who gave her the

greatest concern.

"What must I do, Martin?" she asked me, and I'm afraid I wasn't very sympathetic, because all I could think about was that Dora was free at last.

Free to love, free to love me, with a happy, prosperous future in store for us,—that was my dream. We "worked" next to each other at the Fair, the Princess Fedora, the richest of all concessions, and Captain Ivanhoe, not to be sneered at, myself. Dora was teaching me Italian, then, I remember. Both of us spoke French and German, as well as English, and she had mapped out a course of study for me which was especially inviting

brooch, and King Humbert's gift was a diamond star, while emporers and dukes and presidents had been pleased to lavish costly gewgaws on the *artiste*, but more precious than these were Margaret's school-girl letters.

A TFIRST Margaret wasn't very inquisitive; I've often wondered since what her idea of Dora was. All mail was addressed to Mrs. Dora Ravenwood, of course, and was sent to the office of the Princess' lawyer in New York. From time to time Dora enclosed copies of her published poems, good poetry, it was, so that Margaret must have been proud to show the verse to her school companions; and then they always corresponded in French. With the generous allowance which the Princess made her daughter, Margaret surely must have imagined her mother to be a wealthy woman, just as her poetry and her charming letters proclaimed her a cultured one.

Then, one day, Margaret wrote, asking Dora if she were a poetess. She meant a professional writer and it pleased Dora immensely. Yet, she answered at once that she only composed her verses for amusement, or because they were in her heart and had to be put on paper; she was, the Princess explained, an artiste. That is what

we call ourselves. Why not?

Just before her fourteenth birthday, then, Margaret Ravenwood crossed the Atlantic and arrived in New York on the very day the Princess was hurried to the hospital with pneumonia.

"Don't tell my little girl; she mustn't be worried, Martin," Dora gasped, clutching my hand imploringly. "Telephone to Mr. Norcross to meet her—and have him say I've gone on tour. I'll be all right in a little while."

Norcross was the lawyer and when it was plain that the Princess was very, very ill and would remain at the hospital for a considerable length of time, he took Margaret to a fashionable girls' school on the Hudson. Dora mended slowly and she looked a wreck. She had aged ten vears in two months and she knew it.

"I can't have my baby see me looking like this, Martin." she cried, clinging to my arm. "After all these years—why, I'll frighten her to death! My

eves look like burnt holes in a blanket, Martin, and . . . are those gray hairs? I et me see: of course I'm not forty! Martin, I don't approve of a

woman's dveing her hair, but surely a little color restorer—eh? Of course! You're a very sensible fellow. my friend."

The Princess went to Hot Springs and remained there a month, and by that time we had to go to California to keep some dates we had contracted for last summer. Dora would have gone to New York then, to see Margaret, only the doctor warned her against the treacherous winters in the East. So instead, Margaret received

a beautiful original poem, the one that has been quoted everywhere, "Daughter o' Mine," and Princess Fedora went to Southern California for the next six months.

Some rogue or philosopher has said that life is as funny as anything, and I'm very much inclined to agree with the gentleman. Life is funny. After all these years Margaret Ravenwood had crossed the Atlantic Ocean to join her mother in America, and yet four years passed without their seeing each other. I don't know why, exactly. It just happened, I suppose. Margaret remained at the school up on the Hudson and spent her vacations with girls she met there. Charming girls, from excellent families, and that pleased the Princess, of course. Dora wasn't a snob, but she did plan big things for her daughter.

"I did want to have my baby with me this summer.



Martin," she'd say to me; "but Helen Waterbury has invited her for July, and there's a week-end at Newport in August on the books. I want Margaret to enjoy herself, and I—if I work this summer again it will mean so many extra dollars in the bank. Yes, that will be best, I fancy."

I was always glad and sorry when Margaret's letters arrived—glad because they made the Princess happy,

and despondent because I firmly believe those letters came between Dora and me. For I haven't a doubt in the world but that Dora would have married me if it hadn't been for Margaret. I was an old friend, trusted, even loved in a way, but Margaret . . . was her god. This is what made me so bitter, so hard, when the crisis came.

Margaret was at Newport, where I think she had met everybody worth while but King George and Mary Pickford, when Dora put into words a thought which I'm sure had been in her mind a long, long time.

"I'm going to quit this business, Martin," she said of a sudden, in a crisp accent. "I'm

You and I are different, my friend, and this is our life. Frankly, I'll miss it, but . . . with Margaret—

"With Margaret you wouldn't even miss Heaven," I said coldly.

She smiled and shook her head. "Don't be jealous of my daughter, please," she implored. "I can't help it if Margaret is half of me—and more. She's a darling. This last letter—and her new photographs—"

Dora handed me the letter and, yes, it was the kind that any mother would have raved about, while the girl herself, her likeness,—she was lovely, just that. Slender and patrician, with beautiful hands and feet. The Princess always said that Jack Ravenwood came of good stock, and, looking at Margaret, one felt that she had excellent

blood in her veins. Dora's blood, too, and Dora isn't tall and slender and patrician looking, but Margaret resembled her dead father.

"Dora," I said, on the spur of the moment, "does she know?"

"Know—what?" the Princess returned, while the flush crept under the skin. "Do you mean——? You know what I've told Margaret, Martin. I've never tried to hide behind my poetry; I've admitted I'm . . . an artiste——"

"An artiste, yes," I answered, steeling my heart against the look of fear, of dismay, on her face. "Are you sure you understand what the word 'artiste' signifies to many persons, probably to your school-girl daughter? If Margaret hasn't placed you beside Ethel Barrymore and Mrs. Fiske—"

"Oh, no, Martin!" Dora's voice was shrill with anguish and she wrung her hands. "I've never told Margaret that—anything to lead her to believe. But you're right: she might think that, Martin. Yes, I've got

think that, Martin. Yes, I've got to quit; I'm going to quit at once."

"It would be best, certainly," I said, and turned and walked away.

In less than a minute she was after me, tugging at my sleeve. Although she was chalk-white and breathing heavily; she met my eyes without faltering.

"It isn't that I'm ashamed of . . . the ide show," she ventured. "If Queen Mary received me, and the President . . . why, it can't be so—so terrible, Martin. I've worked

hard and made a lot of money—honestly. I've appeared in vaudeville, too. Maybe—maybe that makes me an artiste in spite of the circus side-show. What do you think, Martin?"

A N OLD fool, perhaps, but I couldn't control my tongue. Remember. I had loved the Princess for nearly sixteen years. Right after Jack Ravenwood took Margaret to Australia, from the day I joined the circus side-shows—all that time I've adored this woman.



I nodded. "And then Margaret need never know,

you mean."

The Princess colored with annoyance at my crudeness, but she was honesty itself, and in a moment she was smiling because she could see that I was provoked.

"Yes, I guess I do mean that, Martin," she admitted.
"There's no need for my little girl ever to know about
this. She's never seen me here, and I suppose
there's no love in her heart for the tinsel and greasepaint.

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"You're an artiste if you want to be, Dora," he said, after the first rhapsody; "and anyone who intimates you're not, will have to answer to me."

At which the Princess drew a deep breath, smiled, and murmured, "You're nice, Martin," thereby sending me

to the seventh heaven of bliss.

As usual we went to California for the winter, for the Princess Fedora was threatened with a law suit when she attempted to cancel her Coast time. Rather than pay a big sum, Dora decided to play out her contracts, which would carry her through January and leave her her own mistress well before spring. Since Margaret was back at school again, her mother felt perfectly safe and commenced her last season torn between joy of the future and pain at saying good-by. After twenty years the show business was part of her, of course, but then Margaret was Margaret, and Dora was going to have her daughter home with her at last.

HEIR home was to be a delightful little castle which the Princess had built on an island in the St. Lawrence River-bought and paid for years ago for this very purpose. Dora said there was a room in the house for me, and I'd be very welcome—Margaret's Uncle Martin and all that; but every day of that last month in

California reminded me of a doomed man drawing closer and closer to eternity.

I'm sure there wasn't in all the land a pampered daughter of a millionaire who received such a Christmas box as went east to the school on the Hudson, addressed to Margaret Ravenwood. For weeks Dora had been devoting all of her spare time seeking out beautiful and unique gifts and into the selection of each article went a mother's whole-hearted love. A beautiful Spanish shawl, with embroidered roses you could fairly smell, exquisite filigree work from the missions, and a gorgeous mandarin's robe from the shops of Chinatown. Then there were silk

stockings by the dozen, hand-made lingerie of which I only caught a glimpse, and handkerchiefs which I was assured were of real lace. Jade ornaments, conserved fruit, and a de luxe edition of Elizabeth Browning's poems were mere bagatelles, according to the Princess. who enclosed a generous check with her letter saying the Christmas box was on its way, and at the last moment

added the King's brooch.

"Margaret might like it for a bar pin," Dora observed simply, just as if the thing wasn't worth its weight in gold and didn't happen to be the Princess' favorite souvenir.

"Yes, and Margaret might like the stars to wear in her hair, or Windsor Castle to live in," I pointed out, rather ungraciously. "If that girl ever marries a poor

man, you're making it pretty hard for him.'

The frightened look she gave me had the stricken expression of a dumb animal in its depths. All at once I realized that Dora had never considered the possibility of her daughter's marrying some day, and I had to turn away from the mute inquiry of her glance. I shouldn't have said what I did, and I cursed myself for a blundering idiot, but just the same the thought lingered with us both. Margaret was a beautiful girl, and it seemed highly improbable that spinsterhood was to be her fate.

That night, when the various concessions on the lot were doing practically no business, around the supper hour, the Princess came over to my platform and in-timated by her manner that she wanted to talk. Wanted to talk about Margaret's future, and I wished she wouldn't, because I didn't know how to answer her.

Dora wore a long black satin cloak over her gay "receiving" costume and perhaps it was that which made

her look white and pinched.

"Martin," she began, "I never considered such a thing as my girl's falling in love and marrying some day. What a silly creature I am, but then no one can ever call me a match-making mamma, can they? It isn't at all improbable that Margaret will get married one of these days, but now-she is merely a child, just eighteen. Modern girls don't marry so young, Martin; there is so much to see and to do before one settles down. Still, I suppose it is just as well that I'm retiring now. In a very little while the Princess Fedora will be but a memory and at Margaret Meadows, on my island in the St. Lawrence, there will be only Mrs. Dora Ravenwood, poetess. No man, regardless of who he is, could object to a poetess,

"No man, regardless, could object to you, Dora," I answered her, a bit thickly. "And if I know human nature.

once Margaret sees you, it will be many years before she has time to think seriously

of a mere man.'

"Flatterer!" she cried, but my words brought color back to her cheeks. "Jack was like that—Jack Ravenwood—at first," she continued, after a moment. "We had the most fun! He said I was the most amusing person he had ever met, and, Martin, I-I believe I'm even more entertaining today. You see, then, in Jack's time, I knew only a smattering of French, and no German or Italian. I hadn't read the Scandinavians and I'm afraid I knew little or nothing of music or art. Now-well, I've studied hard. I never

went to college, but I believe I can match Margaret-

frankly, I do. She was like a small boy who whistles in the dark to

keep up his courage.

Our New Contest

We are trying to interest you

every month in a big way. The

variety of our stories is becoming

greater as time passes. We are

planning surprizes for you month by

month. I know you're going to like

them as they come—but right now

I want you to read the announce-

ment on page 72.

"My wager's on you, and not Margaret," I told her. I could understand Dora's anxiety to get away from the show business before her daughter was ready to come home, although our profession to me had never seemed a thing to be ashamed of. And the Princess, being a woman, has enjoyed a more distinguished career than I. Surely no opera singer or dramatic artist has known such homage. The pet and plaything of royalty, she has numerous gifts and decorations to prove her triumphs at the courts of Europe. Cultured, refined, gifted, the Princess has charmed everyone with whom she ever came in contact, and if Margaret found it difficult to become reconciled to the show tent and photograph seller, why, her mother's fortune had been accumulated by these methods. Still, if Dora wished to put the old life behind her, I was there to help her to the best of my ability.

When I say that neither the Princess nor I ever once considered the fact that Margaret Ravenwood might object to the woman herself, you [Turn to page 121]

Smart Set Girls

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The Hidden Cit

VULLY five minutes elapsed before I could grasp the significance of Father's words. It hardly seemed possible that he could have found Clyde drinking and gambling and using such language.

"And on the Sabbath!" echoed Mother sadly.

Although the thought of such a possibility flashed through my mind, I could not really bring myself to say aloud that Father must be mistaken. Considering that he had gone to Clyde because of my love for him, I knew Father would go to great lengths to establish these facts before repeating them.

The structure of my new hopes, having been raised too rapidly, collapsed about me with a deafening crash. In the estimation of Martinsville, drinking and gambling represented the lowest depths of worldly wickedness. Both were utterly unknown in our simple little secluded community, even in the days before the Federal government took affairs into its own hands.

"It is not bad enough that they will make it possible for the world to invade our privacy," Father said. "They mean to bring their vices right into our very homes."

But everything swam before my eyes. Hot and cold waves swept over me. I wanted to die rather than to face my parents.

When the objects in the room stopped their hideous dancing, I felt Mother's arms holding me tightly.

Eden darling!" she begged with unaccustomed display affection. "Daughter-open thine eyes."

Father stood beside me with a glass of water which he held to my lips. Then he chafed my hands briskly.

until I felt the warmth of life surge back into my face.
"He is not worthy of thee, Eden," Father was saying. "I know that it will be hard to tear his image from thy

heart. Thou must try to forget.'

Forget. There was so little to remember, after all—a kiss, an embrace, a few moments in which our bodies turned as one, swayed and whirled to the cadence of forbidden music, throbbed to the rhythm of the forbidden dance, and glowed with an inner fire as bright as the blazing lights overhead.

So little to remember, after all! Perhaps it would be

easy to forget.

I told my parents that I would face the Lord's decision with humility and fortitude. I did not want them to worry over me. The next morning I resumed my care of the Fullerton children just as if nothing had happened

Outwardly I maintained that forced air of courage and cheer. Inwardly, I was like an empty vessel. After trying to fulfill this assurance of fortitude for several days, I realized I had set myself an impossible task.

Bitterness against Clyde kept him constantly in my

his friends, I might still have cherished one desperate Now, not only would marriage be forever impossible, but even the solace of friendship.

Not because Father would forbid it. I did not need his judgment to guide me in this instance. I myself felt that this created an impassable barrier between us.

Oh, I was bitter! I do not want you to think that my love had suddenly become converted into hate. So many generations of Friends behind me had stamped out my capacity for any such malicious emotion. I would not have injured Clyde for any reason under the sun. Indeed, I was willing to suffer any loss, any pain, any agony, if my sacrifice would do him some good. So far as I could see, the desolation could be of no ultimate

> Bitterness is the only word I can use to express my feelings-bitterness at his having destroyed the last wistful longing for "what might

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thoughts. I had known his standards were not mine from the very beginning. I had dreamed of a sort of compromise, but with this new manifestation of his worldliness, the situation became different.

Even according to our rigid beliefs, drink and cards were far more wicked than dancing. They were the very incarnation of the Devil himself. I could not even picture them in my imagination. I knew them both as unworthy pursuits of a man of character. Drink was a sin of the flesh—vile, and wasteful of physical strength. Gambling was a sin of the spirit, for men grew content to make money by chance rather than by muscle and brain.

HERE was something unclean and revolting in the thought of such habits and, try as I might, I could not reconcile my knowledge of Clyde's wholesomeness with the scene Father had described.

Better to have left well enough alone! Had Father not sought him out, and interrupted him in his revels with

Had I meant as much to him as he insisted I did, my way of living would have influenced

him. I did not expect him to abandon his world. But to drink, to gamble—how could he after the white passion of that night at the dance?

I, who had committed no unpardonable sin in all my life, had felt newly-created, spotlessly pure after his first kiss. It came as a shock to me that our brief romance of that night had made no change in him.

The Fullerton children were no longer the consolation they had been. Their very devotion seemed to taunt me. I could not even know the comfort of a drive with Cosmo, the pony, as he became quite lost in the snowdrifts the instant we started out.

Christmas was fast approaching. Whereas neither the Friends nor the Mennonites celebrated this day with the gorgeous ceremony observed by the rest of the world, nevertheless it was a time of simple festival for us, too. I had no heart to throw myself into the preparations.

best I hoped to gain a little spiritual peace at Yuletide. Joy, except for that which comes of good-will, lay beyond my expectations.

Certain rumors began to be whispered about town. I had thought that my parents and I were the only ones to share the secret of Clyde's behavior. It seemed, shortly,

that I was mistaken.

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Anthony Carlysle, having come home to find Clyde and his friends still at their boisterous pastime, communicated his displeasure to Clyde. Clyde, so the story came to me, refused to discuss the matter. As far as he



was concerned, he said, what went on in the privacy of his room was his own business.

After sitting up through that night, his companions left at dawn, and from all that could be learned, did not intend to come back. Nevertheless, Friend Carlysle considered it his duty to warn Elder Leffelbach of the Mennonite church that danger was at our doors.

Elder Leffelbach, who was invited to the Hebrew Feast of Candles, then in progress, promised to convey the

message to Abner Gordon, with whom Clyde boarded.

A storm of excitement broke over our snow-bound community. Martinsville was agog, and no righteous citizen felt justified in keeping silent. Another town might have magnified the story. The plain, unadorned facts were terrifying enough:—A stranger to whom we had given shelter had abused our hospitality by bringing vice into one of our most honored homes. Who could tell how often he might repeat the offense?

I had lived so completely in the solitude of my disappointment that I did not realize how strongly public opinion was turning against Clyde until that Sunday when Elder Leffelbach preached his fiery sermon against the Flesh and the Devil. He did not mention Clyde's name, but pictured his subject with such accuracy that

his congregation could not be left in doubt.

Tillie Dunnbecker visited me at Aaron Fullerton's the next afternoon for the express purpose of repeating the sermon to me.

WILT tell me something, Eden?" she asked, coming closer, and casting a swift look behind her as if to guard against eavesdroppers. "Everybody says it's true. Did—did he really leave a trail of—of brimstone in his room after he left? Like—Satan?"

Something hot pounded in my temples. "Who?" I

asked in turn, to gain time. "Mr. Orsay," she whispered.

God forgive me for the unkind thought, but in that moment I wanted to slap Tillie's face, her round, shining face with its big, foolish blue eyes. There is nothing so certain to fan a last spark of love into flame, as criticism of the loved one. Whatever I might feel toward Clyde, I was furious at Tillie's intimation.

"Art silly!" I cried in provocation. "When our elders tell us that the Evil One leaves a trail of fire and brimstone—only the little children believe that. The story is symbolic. And besides, with the birthday of our Lord so near, I think it is wrong for thee to entertain such cruel thoughts toward a man who has not done thee or anyone else in Martinsville aught of harm. Hast best look to thine own soul, Tillie."

"Well," she answered, taken aback by my outburst, "my father says he is glad that the stranger did not live

in our house, anyway.

Particularly among children, stories of this kind spread like wildfire. A few days after this, I saw little Esther Gordon and a playmate stop short in fear before Friend Carlysle's home. Then, joining hands and shutting their eyes tightly, they ran past, as if Satan really dwelt within.

EVEN the Hebrews, whom we considered touched by the world because they danced at festivals and weddings, and drank wine in the performance of certain ceremonies—even they had warned their children against Clyde!

I cannot easily describe the feelings which all this suppressed excitement aroused within me. My bitterness toward Clyde had by no means lessened, but along with it, if such is possible, I had a vague feeling that I ought to defend him from injustice of the town's attitude.

Although he had outraged our ideas of morality, people had no reason to believe that he meant to teach the young people of Martinsville to do the same. I who knew him better than the rest, understood this too well. To declare that he was a menace before he showed any desire to spread his iniquity seemed very unfair.

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The Hidden City

VULLY five minutes elapsed before I could grasp the significance of Father's words. It hardly seemed possible that he could have found Clyde

drinking and gambling and using such language.
"And on the Sabbath!" echoed Mother sadly.
Although the thought of such a possibility flashed through my mind, I could not really bring myself to say aloud that Father must be mistaken. Considering that he had gone to Clyde because of my love for him, I knew Father would go to great lengths to establish these facts before repeating them.

The structure of my new hopes, having been raised too rapidly, collapsed about me with a deafening crash. In the estimation of Martinsville, drinking and gambling represented the lowest depths of worldly wickedness. Both were utterly unknown in our simple little secluded community, even in the days before the Federal government took affairs into its own hands.

"It is not bad enough that they will make it possible for the world to invade our privacy," Father said. "They

mean to bring their vices right into our very homes."

But everything swam before my eyes. Hot and cold waves swept over me. I wanted to die rather than to face my parents.

When the objects in the room stopped their hideous dancing, I felt Mother's arms holding me tightly.

"Eden darling!" she begged with unaccustomed display

of affection. "Daughter—open thine eyes."
Father stood beside me with a glass of water which he held to my lips. Then he chafed my hands briskly,

until I felt the warmth of life surge back into my face.
"He is not worthy of thee, Eden," Father was saying. "I know that it will be hard to tear his image from thy

heart. Thou must try to forget."

Forget. There was so little to remember, after all—a kiss, an embrace, a few moments in which our bodies turned as one, swayed and whirled to the cadence of forbidden music, throbbed to the rhythm of the forbidden dance, and glowed with an inner fire as bright as the blazing lights overhead.

so little to remember, after all! Perhaps it would be casy to forget.

I told my parents that I would face the Lord's decision with humility and fortitude. I did not want them to worry over me. The next morning I resumed my care if the Fullerton children just as if nothing had happened

Outwardly I maintained that forced air of courage and theer. Inwardly, I was like an empty vessel. After trying to fulfill this assurance of fortitude for several days, I realized I had set myself an impossible task.

Bitterness against Clyde kept him constantly in my

his friends, I might still have cherished one desperate hope. Now, not only would marriage be forever impossible, but even the solace of friendship.

Not because Father would forbid it. I did not need his judgment to guide me in this instance. I myself felt that this created an impassable barrier between us.

Oh, I was bitter! I do not want you to think that my love had suddenly become converted into bate. So many generations of Friends behind me had stamped out my capacity for any such malicious emotion. I would not have injured Clyde for any reason under the sun. Indeed, I was willing to suffer any loss, any pain, any agony, if my sacrifice would do him some good. So far as I could see, the desolation could be of no ultimate

> Bitterness is the only word I can use to express my feelings-bitterness at his having destroyed the last wistful longing for "what might



thoughts. I had known his standards were not mine from the very beginning. I had dreamed of a sort of compromise, but with this new manifestation of his worldliness, the situation became different.

Even according to our rigid beliefs, drink and cards were far more wicked than dancing. They were the very incarnation of the Devil himself. I could not even picture them in my imagination. I knew them both as unworthy pursuits of a man of character. Drink was a sin of the flesh—vile, and wasteful of physical strength. Gambling was a sin of the spirit, for men grew content to make money by chance rather than by muscle and

HERE was something unclean and revolting in the thought of such habits and, try as I might, I could not reconcile my knowledge of Clyde's wholesomeness with the scene Father had described.

Better to have left well enough alone! Had Father not sought him out, and interrupted him in his revels with Had I meant as much to him as he insisted I did, my way of living would have influenced

him. I did not expect him to abandon his world. But to drink, to gamble-how could he after the white passion of that night at the dance?

I, who had committed no unpardonable sin in all my life, had felt newly-created, spotlessly pure after his first kiss. It came as a shock to me that our brief romance of that night had made no change in him.

The Fullerton children were no longer the consolation they had been. Their very devotion seemed to taunt me. I could not even know the comfort of a drive with Cosmo, the pony, as he became quite lost in the snowdrifts the instant we started out.

Christmas was fast approaching. Whereas neither the Friends nor the Mennonites celebrated this day with the gorgeous ceremony observed by the rest of the world, nevertheless it was a time of simple festival for us, too. I-had no heart to throw myself into the preparations. At

best I hoped to gain a little spiritual peace at Yuletide. Joy, except for that which comes of good-will, lay beyond my expectations.

Certain rumors began to be whispered about town. I had thought that my parents and I were the only ones to share the secret of Clyde's behavior. It seemed, shortly,

that I was mistaken.

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Anthony Carlysle, having come home to find Clyde and his friends still at their boisterous pastime, communicated his displeasure to Clyde. Clyde, so the story came to me, refused to discuss the matter. As far as he



was concerned, he said, what went on in the privacy of his room was his own business.

After sitting up through that night, his companions left at dawn, and from all that could be learned, did not intend to come back. Nevertheless, Friend Carlysle considered it his duty to warn Elder Leffelbach of the Mennonite church that danger was at our doors.

Elder Leffelbach, who was invited to the Hebrew Feast of Candles, then in progress, promised to convey the

message to Abner Gordon, with whom Clyde boarded.
A storm of excitement broke over our snow-bound community. Martinsville was agog, and no righteous citizen felt justified in keeping silent. Another town

citizen felt justified in keeping silent. Another town might have magnified the story. The plain, unadorned facts were terrifying enough:—A stranger to whom we had given shelter had abused our hospitality by bringing vice into one of our most honored homes. Who could tell how often he might repeat the offense?

I had lived so completely in the solitude of my disappointment that I did not realize how strongly public opinion was turning against Clyde until that Sunday when Elder Leffelbach preached his fiery sermon against the Flesh and the Devil. He did not mention Clyde's name, but pictured his subject with such accuracy that

his congregation could not be left in doubt.

Tillie Dunnbecker visited me at Aaron Fullerton's the next afternoon for the express purpose of repeating the sermon to me.

WILT tell me something, Eden?" she asked, coming closer, and casting a swift look behind her as if to guard against eavesdroppers. "Everybody says it's true. Did—did he really leave a trail of—of brimstone in his room after he left? Like—Satan?"

Something hot pounded in my temples. "Who?" I

asked in turn, to gain time. "Mr. Orsay," she whispered.

God forgive me for the unkind thought, but in that moment I wanted to slap Tillie's face, her round, shining face with its big, foolish blue eyes. There is nothing so certain to fan a last spark of love into flame, as criticism of the loved one. Whatever I might feel toward Clyde, I was furious at Tillie's intimation.

"Art silly!" I cried in provocation. "When our elders tell us that the Evil One leaves a trail of fire and brimstone—only the little children believe that. The story is symbolic. And besides, with the birthday of our Lord so near, I think it is wrong for thee to entertain such cruel thoughts toward a man who has not done thee or anyone else in Martinsville aught of harm. Hast best look to thine own soul, Tillie."

"Well," she answered, taken aback by my outburst.

"Well," she answered, taken aback by my outburst.
"my father says he is glad that the stranger did not live

in our house, anyway.

Particularly among children, stories of this kind spread like wildfire. A few days after this, I saw little Esther Gordon and a playmate stop short in fear before Friend Carlysle's home. Then, joining hands and shutting their eyes tightly, they ran past, as if Satan really dwelt within.

EVEN the Hebrews, whom we considered touched by the world because they danced at festivals and weddings, and drank wine in the performance of certain ceremonies—even they had warned their children against

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It sounds contradictory for me to entertain these two emotions side by side. I daresay it was, especially since I certainly did not believe that he could ever redeem himself in my eyes. Still, for the sake of what had once

passed between us, I could not endure the town's hysteria,

which seemed to mount day by day.

Yet what could I say? The least word in his favor might be taken to mean that I approved of his course. Emphatically, I did not. Accordingly I kept silent, with the result that my conflicting emotions threatened to undermine my health as well as my nerves.

From various sources, I heard that he was meeting his neighbor's disapproval with the most astounding coldness I did not suppose for a moment that he was unaware of the change toward him. As events proved later, he was, but he preferred to maintain that aloofness, to impress upon Martinsville that his life was quite unrelated to others

Had he but assured Friend Carlysle that the disgraceful

scene would not be repeated, the matter
would have been
dropped. When this
nonchalance amounted
to genuine defiance,
Elder Leffelbach came
over one night to find
out if the Friends
would join the Mennonites in asking
Clyde to leave town.

ATHER did not tell me so. Just by accident I overheard the conversation. The two men were alone in the living-room, Mother asked me to go in quietly and fetch her darning basket, which she left on the fireside bench. was mistaken, however, and I had to hunt for the basket. Thus I was forced to listen to a few snatches of their talk, and from them I pieced together the purpose of Elder Leffelbach's visit. Perhaps I learned more than was good for me.

"But he is here on business of the state, and must perform his duties as promised!" Father protested.

"It's boardinghouses in Madison, too," replied the other, rather thickly. After all these generations many of the Mennonites still preserved a trace of their ancestral language. "And when it's snow everywhere," he continued, "he can't do nothing on the road, anyhow."

"That is true," Father agreed, "but if he stays he must have some purpose in doing so. No, Herman, I am afraid we Friends cannot join thee in asking him to leave town. That would hint of persecution, and thou knowest that persecution is an evil we have always avoided. We must let him abide with us, and can only strengthen our inner selves to resist that which he finds pleasurable."

Hugging the basket to me, I went out, strangely moved. Clyde did not leave town after all.

The next Sunday he appeared at Meeting as usual, but

no mention of the problem, either direct or indirect, was made by Charity Simmons, who spoke. On the Friday meeting before Christmas, Father delivered a short message. In his simple but eloquent fashion he talked of the personal aspects of sin. "Whereas sin is a matter between-God and sinner," he said, "let him who steps aside from the path of righteousness remember that he cannot live entirely independent of his fellow men. Somewhere there is one, perhaps unknown to him, who will grieve because of this sin."

I do not think Father meant his words as a rebuke to Clyde. It was just that the thought was uppermost in his mind. But Clyde, with the same thought uppermost in his mind, was influenced, and the morning after, he came to Father, requesting a short interview

with me.

He told Father that any third person was welcome to be present during our conversation. Father replied that he did not believe such spying on his daughter necessary. Provided I was willing, he might talk to me whenever he wished.

Clyde explained this to me while he stood in the doorway of the Fullerton cottage. I had not yet recovered from the shock of seeing him before me in his great sheepskin coat and fur hat.

Of course this relieved me of my promise not to communicate with him. I knew why Father had consented to this—because he felt confident that this man was powerless to affect me. And Father's confidence was well founded.

The sight of Clyde merelysting my bitterness into activity. There could be no trembling warmth in our meeting. His ardent eyes that had

once kindled my soul left me quite cold. His nearness gave me no sense of anticipation. I felt that I could listen to whatever he had to say without the slightest stir of memory.

At my invitation, he entered eagerly, even forgetting to stamp the snow from his boots.

EDEN!" he burst out. You're not going to marry this—this—" hesitating, he glanced at little Emily who was playing with a kitten on the floor, "—the father of these children, are you?"

"Is this what you came to ask me?" I demanded, myself aghast at any such possibility.

"No, I came to justify myself, Eden. If you'll only listen to me—."

"Nothing you can say will justify your behavior," I

Don't Forget the Day

Are you going home for Thanksgiving? I wish we all could but I know it isn't always possible. And I'm going to ask you to do me a favor.

If you can't go home you can write. Please do it. Thanksgiving is one of the most glorious days in American history. Let's do what little we can to cheer someone up over the holiday.

And if you can go home, write to someone who can't. It isn't much to do, but it will bring a little glow into a life which doesn't have any too much pleasure in it.

If you haven't any other friend to write to, write to me. I'm always glad to hear from my friends and we have a point of contact in SMART SET.

And just to put a little interest behind your letter I'm going to give \$25 for the best one I receive and \$5 for each of the five next best. All letters must be mailed by December 1st. Prizes will be awarded January 1st. The editors will be the judges.—The Editor.

retorted. "Why should I listen to you after you -

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He looked at me in an absolute bewilderment. I did not have to scrutinize his face to see how thin it had grown.

"You don't mean you believe all these fool stories coing around?

"Are you asking me to doubt my father's word?" I hallenged.

"And did your father tell you he saw me drunk? That he saw me gambling for high stakes? That he heard me use language that no decent chap would ever think of?"

"If you knew why my father went to visit you that

Yet I did believe it was none of Clyde's affair at all, and womanlike, I chose to punish him for his curiosity. I did not stop to think why that curiosity was so keen. "Who told you this?" •

"Everybody's saying it-that there's a secret engagement between you, and you're taking care of the children now so they'll grow accustomed to you.'

"Does that make any difference to you?"

"Eden!"

"Perhaps—there is," I admitted.

E MUTTERED something under his breath which I could not catch. Then he began pacing the small room with large steps. Silence hung over us, a gray heavy silence, menacing as a storm cloud. I saw no reason for me to break it. I had nothing to say to him. Let him

The silence pressed heavier. The child, sensitive as children are, becoming suddenly aware of the tension about her, ran to me with a request to be taken up. Once in my lap, her confidence returned, and from this vantage point she proceeded to flirt shyly with Clyde.



night, you would realize how careful he would be in repeating what he saw."

"Because I told him I loved you," I answered. "He was coming to make peace with you, to get to know you better. He believed there must be much good in you, if l loved you. He felt remorse at having been too stern. And then he found you-drinking. Oh, how could you do this to me. Clyde?"

At this, he started forward.
"I loved you—then," I reminded him pointedly.
He turned away. "Then you are going to marry him!" Let me assure you here that this intention had never The mere suggestion struck terror to crossed my mind. my heart, not because Aaron Fullerton was a disagreeable sort of person, but because I did not love him.

This was disconcerting, to say the least, particularly since I could feel Clyde's eyes watching me as I cuddled her closer.

Why—he's a clod, a simpleton!" said Clyde at last.

I knew he meant Friend Fullerton. To tell the truth, he was by no means one of the town's bright, alert men Yet, for me to be sitting in his home, mothering his children while I permitted another to call him a simpleton, offended my sense of loyalty. I made no attempt to conceal my displeasure. Turn to page 107]



The Little

S A bird is born with wings to soar, I was born with rebellion in my heart. At college, I never had to smoke on the campus against rules, or keep a monogrammed flask in my room, or do any of the other silly things the girls did, in order to achieve what they proudly called "revolt."

Revolt came to me naturally. It beat in my blood. It colored my speech and shaped my thoughts. It lifted my dark head to a saucy angle, and gave to my body that erect poise which Edith Baxter always said made me look like one about to take a flying swan-dive from a spring-board.

"The Littlest Rebel," they called me a month after I had entered college, and by the end of the first semester, many had forgotten that my application blank read "Louella Dane." Yet the escapades by which I earned the former name, and I can assure you there were many.

were mere misdemeanors compared to that one great crime of my sophomore year.

I defied Professor Peter Banks!

To an outsider this means nothing. To the student body it was sacrilege. I defied Professor Peter Banks!

Now any college, especially a co-ed place like Stratford, is a little community in itself. It not only has its own officers and laws but its own particular standards of ethics and morality. It creates individual styles of dress and habits of speech. It has its own joys and sorrows and heart-aches; work and leisure; flirtations and love affairs. But above all every college has its faculty deities, little tin gods that command worship, and to doubt the divinity of one of these is almost as grave as to doubt the existence of the Creator himself.

Professor Peter Banks was the god of gods in Stratford, a young, unmarried, handsome god, listed on the



On Friday afternoons Professor Banks took us out to the woods for firsthand study.

There was much about him to feed the general appetite for heroworship—certain human qualities that were foreign to other profs.

Tin God

faculty roster as associate in Natural Science, and in *The lvy Leaf*, our year book, as the youngest full-fledged professor, aged twenty-eight.

When I saw the girls lift their eyes to him in adoration, or the boys boast about having been invited to his rooms to look over his collection of curios, a mischievous lesire to tear down his pedestal struggled within me for release.

T HAT this was incomprehensible to my classmates, I fully knew.

"Oh. Louella!" wailed Edith Baxter, who roomed in Carter Hall, where I did. "Haven't you ever honestly had a crush on anybody?"

"Not I!" I boasted.

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"Not even on—Peter?" she asked in an awed whisper. All the girls called him Peter behind his back. They

liked to call the professors by their first names. "That paper doll!"

Her feelings were too wounded for her to continue to discuss him. "And not even on Bill Kirk? He—he even asked me to put in a good word for him."

Bill Kirk was the junior who used to camp on the Carter Hall steps hoping for a glimpse of me. Many a night at ten o'clock the dorm proctor suggested tactfully that I go out and shoo him away. After a while, with the help of the cook, I found an exit through a cellar window and used to escape, going my own way while poor Bill waited doggedly.

"You ask Bill what I did to him the night of the Phi Sigma Phi dance, when he tried to kiss me," I suggested.

By the way Edith colored, I judged that Bill had already told her. As a matter of fact, I had chased him up a tree, like the funny big bear that he was. Oh, not

because I was a prude and objected to the kiss, but just

At any rate, that's the wildcat I was, when, at the beginning of my sophomore year I registered for a course with Professor Banks. As a frosh, I had taken nothing with him out of contrariness. But during that first vaca 15 m. I definitely decided to study medicine after gradua 150n, and in order to be eligible for medical college, I needed a certain course in general biology which only be mayor.

JUST why I should have been convinced that I would some day clash with this Apollo of the tin gods, I cannot tell, except that, as I say, rebellion was the very pulse of my life. He aroused in me that spirited antagonism, which withstands explanation. I resented his very appearance—that lithe, strong body of his, almost like an Indian runner's. I resented his youth, and his scholarly achievements, and his wide reputation as an

adventurer. Prospecting for gold, big game hunting, excavation of lost cities, visits to hidden tribes—all these he had to his credit

Just imagine turning a man like that into a group of young people whose lives had always been bounded by class-

room walls!
Truthfully speaking, you see there was much about Professor Banks to feed the general appetite for hero-worship. Besides all this, he exhibited certain human qualities foreign to the other cloistered professors. He treated men and women alike with a certain worldly but jolly frankness. He never refused an invitation to an undergrad smoker. He had been heard to swear soundly and picturesquely upon a number of occasions. Instead of greeting you with a stiff "Good morning!"—as was the faculty habit—he would wave to you half way across the campus and call out,

"Hello, there!"

Oh, yes! He was a regular fellow, but I had always been too much the tomboy myself to idolize anything in male form. I simply had to make him look foolish in public, and at the end of the first month I saw my opportunity. By that, I do not mean that I sat waiting to pounce upon my prey. I recognized the opportunity subconsciously.

Professor Banks was late to class. He often was. Despite the ruling that a section was automatically dismissed if the instructor failed to appear within fifteen minutes after the bell, nobody moved to go. That was the hold he had on them, and the boys were just as bad as the girls. We stood around chatting, eleven of us, as I remember, and Fred Neidhart was trying to date me up for the first football game

SUDDENLY somebody said, "Let 'The Littlest Rebel' take the class. She knows a lot about this bunk." I accept the nomination!" I cried, starting toward the small platform where the desk stood.

I had always had a real talent for imitation. In addition, I had watched Professor Banks more closely than I would have been willing to admit. Generally, he wore tweeds and an old army hat, still bearing the "Chemical Warfare" insignia. On days when he came late, he would appear with that battered hat far back on his head, and a preoccupied look on his face, obviously unware of the presence of the class.



I snatched a hat from one of the boys and, settling it at the proper angle, began my triumphal advance from the doorway. At any rate I thought it was going to be triumphal. For a second, the others greeted my histrionic efforts with silent perplexity. Then a shout of glee

Now, Professor Banks had an unusual walk. He glided along in a straight line, hardly lifting his feet, like a true woodsman. I knew I had caught this peculiarity. I pulled myself up sharply before the class, swept them a bow, and hung my hat on the chair, as he did

Bedlam broke loose. It is a funny thing that although not one of them would have presumed to impersonate the god of gods, as I was doing, nevertheless, in spite of their devotion to him, they enjoyed the spectacle of another's doing so.

The mock lesson went along beautifully. Oh, I was

making a spectacle of the professor! In moments of intense interest, Professor Banks strode up and down, rumpling his hair. Accordingly, I was in the act of tugging at my short curls, and delivering a ridiculous lecture on the economic importance of lobster genus Vereburg in the life of American aristocracy, when the thing happened.

I stopped to draw breath, and in the pause glanced toward the doorway. There stood Professor Banks.

At first I was not so shocked. Even the ominous silence of the others who had followed my gaze could not

"My dear Miss Dane," said the professor with a limt of mockery in his voice. "Permit me to resign in your favor."

This was the time for me to say something clever about holding the mirror up to nature, or something flippant about collecting a day's salary for my services. But did 1?

I kept reminding myself that I was the girl who had stayed away from her own hazing just to see what would happen. The thought seemed to bring me no courage. I looked into his laughing, teasing eyes, until the whole structure of my defiance collapsed. Then I burst into

tears and dashed from the

Tears of rage, I told myself they were. Yet nobody could have been more astonished than I. Truly I could not remember when last I had cried. Certainly not a soul at college had ever seen me in tears.

WITH all the fervor of my rebellious soul, I hated that smiling, teasing, horrid superior creature. At last I had a legitimate reason for a declaration of war.

By noon-time the story was on every lip. The gray stone dormitory walls echoed with it. The chapel chimes rang with it. The few leaves left on the trees whispered it to each other. Every blade of campus grass seemed to stiffen as I passed.

The god of gods was victorious and "The Littlest Rebel" humbled. I think there was as much triumph over my tears as there was amazement at my insult to the person of Professor Banks. But I was not humbled, and already plans sizzled in my head.

Yet, for a while, although I held my head higher than ever, life was almost unbearable. The more I pro-

tested, the less my friends believed that I had not developed a crush on him, and staged this scene in order to attract his attention.

OH. I know how it is," said Isabel Arnold, who broke out into crushes periodically, like poison ivy. "That's one of the first symptons—crying. Your heart just fills with joy."

"But it wasn't joy, I tell you! I was furious because he sneaked up behind me that way."

Fred Neidhart happened to be one of the group on the gym steps at the time. "Co-eds and football heroes," he put in, "permit me to introduce the greatest little tearwringer on the screen. Tears guaranteed one hundred per cent natural, without aid of onion juice, and unadulterated by glycerin."

"Louella has a crush!" intoned somebody, in the singsong rhythm children use.

"Louella has a crush!" repeated [Turn to page 112]



dampen my spirit. Besides,

deep down in my heart I had

hoped that he would catch

me poking fun at him. After

ill there is no point to pulling

down a pedestal unless the god

knows he has been deposed.

When our eyes met, I realized he had witnessed the

whole performance. We had all been too much engrossed

to notice him standing in the doorway. Neither did this

bother me. I gathered my wits to meet a pained rebuke,

hat back on his head, entered the room by burlesquing

my imitation of his walk. It was wholly incredible. Far

from being incensed, he was turning the tables on me.

But instead, he chuckled quietly and, slapping the old

or haughty indifference.

The class tittered.

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the derelicts in Union Square Park one biting, raw evening in last March.

She drew tighter the coat of her shabby dress, though it offered but scant protection against the wind which swept from river to river

Then, mechanically, she opened her purse and, for perhaps the hundredth time that day, counted the coins it contained—the four pennies.

"What are you doing here, sister?"

At the query the girl started up with a gasp of fright. Vove her towered a big man in a blue uniform and brass buttons. There was no gruffness in his tone, but his eyes were coldly searching.

"I was—just resting," she stammered.
"Well, it's getting pretty late for girls like you to be out alone. Sometimes rough people drift into this park at night. How about going home?"
"Yes, sir. I will—now." The girl hurried away.

But, with the park a block behind her, she paused in the shadows and laughed-hysterically. She laughed and clenched her hands to hold back the tears.

'Home!" The word mocked her. She had no home. Only that morning she had been put out of her tiny hall bedroom far uptown because she owed two weeks' rent. For a long time she had been too ill to earn enough to meet her scanty necessities. She hadn't eaten since the night before.

OUR cents! That was her capital. Not sufficient to telegraph the "folks back home" of her plight and ask them to come for her—if they would. She was beaten. The pride which previously had kept her from writing and admitting she had failed, was crushed. She had just about reached the end-

Then she remembered. She reopened her purse, drew out a bit of paper, held it close to a lighted window and read the address scrawled upon it: 138 East Nineteenth Street. Some days previous it had been given to her by a fellow lodger, in the rooming-house from which she had been evicted, with the injunction: "Go there if you

Needs a Friend



get down and out. They'll help you. I'm sure they will." At the time she had given the matter little thought. Now she wondered dumbly if there really was a place

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which would help such as she.
"Nineteenth Street," she mumbled. "That isn't far away. I guess I can walk it. And no matter what they do, I can't be any worse off than I am now.

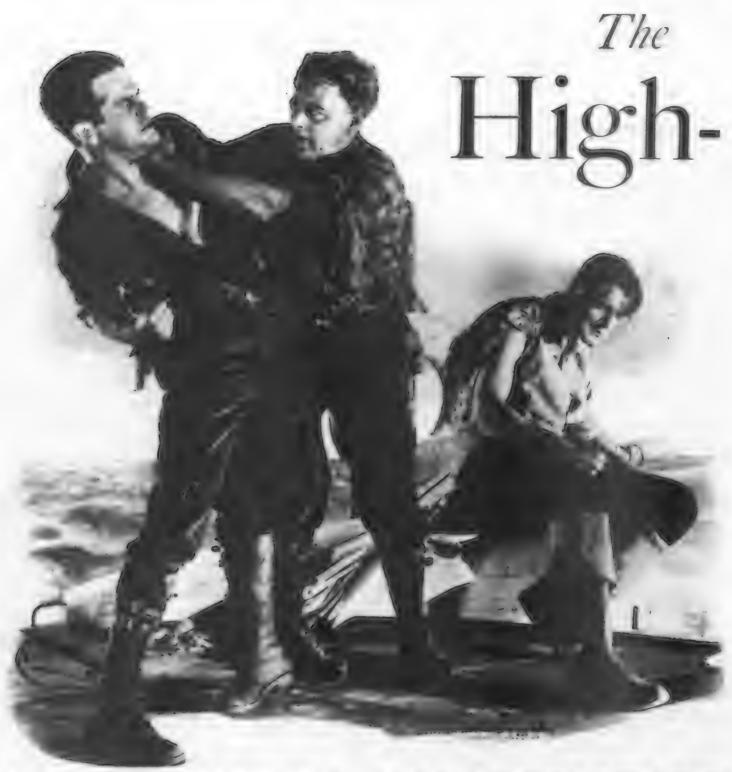
With faltering steps she turned north, located the thoroughfare, then moved along slowly, searching for the number. Finally she came to the place, one of a row of fine brown stone houses. It surely looked homey, with lights shining from many windows. And she heard sounds of music and laughter.

She moved closer and read the sign at the entrance, "Girls' Service League." Again she studied the building. Had she no place to go? The query came after she had eaten and rested. She had not. Very well. There was a nice room for her upstairs. Soon she was alone. In the finest room she had seen for a long time. And in the cleanest bed in which she had rested since she ran away from her up-state home.

The sun was well up the following morning when the frail, almost broken girl, after a bath and a bountiful breakfast, sat in the tiny private office of the woman who

had welcomed her the night before.

There was nothing in her story that was new. She could sing and dance, a little. She hated the small factory town in which she had lived from as far back as she could remember. For a long time she had wanted to get away from it. She had hoped to win a place for herself upon the stage or in the [Turn to page 94]



I'M an easy-going man, likewise a bit religious, so I do not think it is right to break promises. But just the same—well. I know two solemn oaths that were broken and only good come of it.

Now, you must understand that I am not an educated guy, and liable to smash the English language, just like I was raised to do, but maybe you can get my meaning.

You see, when I first come up here to Cape Breton, I was just a young fellow of twenty-three, and knew a lot more about hell-roarin' than about religion. I went in for to stoke an old tub of a sea-goin' hack of a tug that was after sword-fish. Ten to twelve hours a day, and the boiler stayed insecure-like, so that when she got in the trough, there I was, a-racin' and a-runnin' up and down after the blanked door with a shovel in my hand.

All this sort of added up to my natural bent for hell-roarin', but there wasn't much to roar at ashore until one day I let Jim MacKay lead me over the hills inland to a place called Boat Lake.

Well, MacKay was a harpooner, and I was only a stoker, but we seemed to have a lot in common, seeing my name is MacKee to his MacKay, and both of us young and lusty Well, to make it short and get at the meat of the story, there was a girl, like there always is, and she was slender as a young juniper, with big, straight-lookin' eyes, and pretty brown hair. I thought her eyes was glorious, and they was, but so did MacKay think.

But it wasn't just her looks, for I've seen those who were better lookers. It was the everlasting squareness of her.

I thought, "What girl can resist a guy that's been to New York and New Orleans and Rio and Liverpool?" So I started to keep her company, and let me tell you, that started things.

MacKay, for one, was also keeping her company. Then, there was a hig, young Frenchy from down to Louisburg, and an Englishman named Cullens, who dropped out and hasn't nothin' to do with this story.

Jenny, that's her name, and she was just as square as ! thought her, for, look!—'stead of keeping me and MacKay and the Frenchy and Cullens dancing on a string, she told us, one and all, that we was on a cold scent. I don't know how she told the others, but she took me along for the milk one day, and while she milked the cow and I sat on a stump, she said to me:



"Buck, you come over here to court me, don't you?" "Honest and earnest; object, matrimony!" I answered.

"I never see you at the Church, Buck!" she said. Well, I told her that I wasn't much on religion, and she asked me if I was a Protestant, and I said, "Yes, a Baptist.

We are Covenanters here!" she said; "I shan't marry out of the Church, Buck!

"Then I'll join the-the thing!" I said, and it took me an hour to convince her that I didn't almost cuss.

"You can come, if you want," she said; "but, Buck, I want to be honest with you. I like you, but I do not love you!"

Well, I could say nothing to that, so I just went on calling on her, and sitting around trying to think of something religious to say that wasn't a cuss word.

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But the only thing I could think of was, "When will you marry me?" and I learned it in Gaelic for variety, so that it

goes, "O phose a mi?" or something like that. All she would do would be to smile at me, and just that was almost enough, for she had a mighty pretty smile.

But one day MacKay eased up to me and said: "Stay away from Jenny, Buck! She's mine!

"She never told me any such thing!" I said, stoutly.

"Well," he drawled, "I told you!"
So I said, "Is that so?" and he said it was, and we went out to a field and fought on it, and he had the best of the argument, but could not lick me. So we fought off and on for a couple of weeks, and he got the best of it every time, but didn't lick me once.

I wish it had been in a book, because then my sticking like that would of busted his nerve. it was real sure enough life, so it only made him madder at me.

One evening when there was a good moon, and we had both of us fought until we had no breath left, I asked him:

"Say, Jim, while you and me are fightin', won't that Frenchy

"I guess maybe them college guys are right when they say that there is a lot of strength a man never gets hold of until the minute he needs it worst."

m n out? We'll both be out of luck, next thing-

But he said there was no chance, because the Frenchy was a Catholic, and Jenny wouldn't marry out of her relation, and had told him so. But the Frenchy sort of went on hanging around.

"Well," I said, "let's show him that he's getting nothing for it, and make him stay away, and then we can settle

this betwixt us!

we helped one another up, there being no hard reelings, except when we thought of the other getting Is my, and went to Boat Lake to see if the Frenchy were there bothering Jenny; but he wasn't.

Then when I saw Jenny I sat down to stay a bit. She iw my face and cried out, and got hot water and bathed it. How grand it felt! But then she did the same for

MacKay, and it didn't feel so good.
Then MacKay and I begun to try to set one another We set and set to eleven, and then Jenny said:

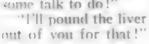
"So!" she said. "This

is how you keep your

solemnoath to me!"

'\re you boys calling on me or on one another? haven't either of you looked at me or spoken to me for an hour.'

That's your ticket. MacKay!" I snapped. "Go catch your train! lenny and me have some talk to do!"



said MacKay, solemn and religious-like, but I said to get some of his own first, and then we were on our feet, ready to tie into one another and wallow in gore. But Jenny come betwixt us.

"I want you to do something for me!" she said.

"All right!" said MacKay, and I said, "No, let me do it."

WANT you to swear off fighting!" she said, and I wished I had not been so much in a hurry, but she was looking straight and earnest at me, and then I give in.

"Jenny," I said, getting husky, "anything at all for you, and I give you my word that I won't smash MacKay like 1 intended!"

"That's a solemn oath!" she said, and asked MacKay to give his, too, but he said:

No. I can't do that.

"Buck," she said to me, "this oath of yours goes for everyone, not alone for Jim. You must not fight any one, but must turn the other cheek and give a soft enswer. And I give you my own solemn oath that if you break this oath of yours, I'll never again speak to you,

even on a matter of life and death!" and her big eyes blazed earnest-like up into mine. So I saw she

"Just the same," I said, "MacKay is a dirty welcher not to sign up at the same time!"
"Never mind, Buck!" she whispered; "I-I

like you a little bit better!"

And I got hot and glad.

Sometimes, after that, it looked like I had the inside track, and sometimes it looked like MacKay had the wind, but neither of us knew for sure, and because we couldn't spill a bit of gore on it, we got sort of dangerous and poisonous to one another.

Jenny's dad, he was a bit disgusted with the both of us. He was a big man in his day, and even now he never bothered to cross the road to keep out of a fight. You understand, he had religious principles against fighting, but he had some manscruples, too, and he used to say, "Better a man and wicked, than a coward and holy!" and he wouldn't take that back, even before the minister.

BUT he was getting to be quite old, being around seventy-two now. He'd knocked all around, not getting married till he was fifty, but having six kids in spite of that.

> But now he was sort of beginning to stoop when no one was looking, and he told me, private, that he was beginning to feel middle-aged. But he was a man!

He used to like me the best. on account of being able to talk with me about Rio and Frisco and Liverpool, and places those where I'd knocked about. He used to tell me about his ship, The Homeland, and how it would sail a mile on a baby's sneeze, and come about in a hundred yards.

He and MacKay hadn't





a buggy drove up and dragged the horses to a stop. "Jim MacKay," he velled, "Jenny's been set on, and her old man come to help, and he got beaten almost dead. I'm to Uhcrof for the doctor for him, and-and all of

her brothers away! You boys better see what can be-"Who did it?" roared MacKay, and I yelled it, too.

"Jenny knows!" he shouted back, and yelled to the horse again and went down the dim road in a cloud of Jim and I started at a dead run for Jenny's house, going by a short-cut that played hell with our clothes, but a lot we cared!

We got there to find the kitchen full of people, all grim and silent. Jenny came in with a basin and some cloths, and Jim asked her:

"Who did this, Jenny?"

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Her eyes were blazing, and she cried:

night, as I said, we were walking together

to see her, as was our way, when a man in

"Oh, if my brothers were here!"

Her brothers were all big men, though younger than I, and took after her father for fighting. But they were all down in the swamps just then.

'Who did it?" roared MacKay; "I'll pull him to bits!"

marry me, eh?' and he tore her dress, and she screamed and Daddy ran to help, and the

Frenchman

"You be quiet!" said Jenny, but when she bent to the child, I saw where her dress had been torn and then pinned together again, and I jumped up and ran after MacKay who was already down the path to Uhcrof where the Frenchy lived.

B UT we couldn't find the Frenchy. His people weren't our people, but they were decent folks, and would have nothing to do with him. Not, queer as it seems, because he had done what he had to Jenny-that made little difference to them, it seemed-but because he had struck down an old man of seventy-two.

So we hunted, hot-blooded and savage, up and down e town, but could not find the Frenchy. Then we fell the town, but could not find the Frenchy. out, and were going to fight about which of us should smash him. But I remembered my promise, so I wouldn't fight MacKay.

Just about dawn we found him down at the waterfront, where he'd slept on a boat. MacKay said:

"You foul son of a jellyfish!" only he didn't use those exact words, being hot. "Come [Turn to page 120]



Friend's

What Had Come Over Garden Parties! He Was Tired ship of Men! Jim

lists mounted daily, and wounded men in hospital blue were seen on the streets, that funny old thing inside me which is called a heart began to beat strangely and I felt the urge to go. What decided me eventually to enlist as a private I do not know, unless it was a letter from Jim Graham. Jim had been my chum at public school. He was a romantic chap, a dreamer, and clever as they're made. He could study. I couldn't. At Oxford, which we both attended, he was almost a star, only there he suddenly ceased to be interested in learning. He was like a sky-rocket that rises, shines, and suddenly peters out. The reason? No one knew—not even I, who was closer to him than anyone else.

HE DECIDED, after we had both left, to try for a post under the Colonial Office in East Africa, for he had to earn a living the same as I. Only I got a job in the city, a humdrum job, which none the less had good prospects.

Jim sailed for the land of his desire. I was at the dock to see him off.

"Good-by, old man," I said; "I'll miss you."

And miss Jim I did. The years—almost three—before he returned were long. I was glad when he came back. It was nod to see him again; good to sit in my diggings by the hre, our feet up on the mantel, pipes going strong, whiskey and sodas at our elbows, and the old companionship as tongues were loosened and bygone days were relived. It was good too—or was it?—to learn that neither had fallen from the proud ranks of bachelorhood, and that each was heart whole. Only, Jim exploded a bomb.

"It's lonely out there for a man alone," he said, meditatively drawing heavily on his pipe as though half ashamed. "Many a time I've longed for the companionship of a woman—"

"Are there no women there?" I interrupted.

He turned on me suddenly. "Don't be a misunder-standin ass!"

It was the same way he had turned on me at school when I had chaffed him about some study dear to his heart. "Pax!" I cried and pretended to ward off an imaginary blow. "But just the same I've heard there are comely, though dusky——"

"Drake! You're a ruddy fool!"

And then I knew he was in earnest and I sighed. "Sorry, old man. I didn't realize you felt that way."

S ANY private or other or non-com. will testify, any man who went into the army during the days of the World War had no idea at all what he was letting himself in for. Of course he had some vague notions for his reasons for joining up, something that had to do with chasing the Kaiser, and patriotism, and hag and country, and all that. Or perhaps it was just sheer love of adventure, or because of daring, or because it was "the thing to do." But no matter what the reasons, no man had any real conception of what "being in the army" might mean to him, old campaigners not excepted. I know, because I found myself in a position from which could not extricate myself, because I was "in the army."

Early in 1915 I threw up my job in London and "joined the colors." I didn't do so sooner because I hadn't taken the war seriously. There were those who said it would last no longer than three months, six at the most. And having my living to carn I didn't see how I could afford to jeopardize my chances just for a "bit of fun," as so many gallant lads who went to Flanders and never returned regarded the situation. But when I began to realize the magnitude of the whole thing; when lads whom I had known were no more; when the casualty

Wife

Jim? Dances and of the Exclusive Companion-Had Grown Up.

He passed the tobacco. It was his way of accepting the apology. The conversation changed into different channels.

"Why don't you come out to B. E. A., too?" he asked. "It's a great country for a man."

for a man."
"Thanks," I replied dryly. "But you have a job there. I have to stick here."
"Yes. And slave your heart out for a jelly-bellied old petti-fogger!"

"Sir Mortimer is a decent enough old

"A decent enough old codger! Listen to the man! And he's a friend of

We turned in later, Jim, as the guest occupying my bed. I curled up on the sofa in the so-called study. I did not fall asleep at once. My mind was filled with our conversation of the evening. And I was thinking about Jim and his loneliness in the land that next to England he loved . . . Then came dreamless oblivion . . .

As was natural Jim and I were much together during his leave. His desire for amusement was too much for me: theatres, dances, even garden parties. I could understand the theatres, I could understand the dances, but I could not imagine the reason for the garden parties. And then I learned. It was mating time for Jim . . . He was looking for a wife. The realization was a blow, the same sort of blow, or something like it, which a parent feels when he discovers a loved child has grown up. Jim was grown up. He was tired of the exclusive companionship of men.

I FELT sorry for Jim, though I tried not to show it I must have succeeded, for there was no change in our old comradeship . . . We still discussed world affairs



over our pipes. He never again referred to the loneliness of velvet nights under the African stars

the inveigled me into going to a dance with him lovely old house on the Thames; nice people, and so on. I went. Often afterwards I wished I had never put step outside of my diggings. The place for a single man—except of course when he goes on a bend is his diggings, or a music half or a good book. It certainly isn't a mees. Dances are apt to be disturbing to his peace of mind, or rather, what happens at

dances
What happened to me at this

particular one was an introduction to a girl. Nothing remarkable about that? One expects to meet girls at dances. Granted. But this girl was different. She had large dark eves, and a piquant face surmounted by masses of coal black hair. Demure she was; petite. She answered to the name of Sybil Blake. And she was the loveliest thing in God's world that I had

ever seen!
I know I
stared as we
were introduced.
I could not help
it. I saw her
thish under my

glance, and with some banality I strove to cover my rudeness. I asked her to dance. She accepted. The next moment to the tune of a mad intoxicating waltz she was swaying in my arms. The loveliness of her went to my head like wine. I was treading on air. In a full of the music

"You are lim Graham's friend, aren't you?" asked the goddess in my arms

(()(/1.1) answer only in monysyllables "Yes."

"He has told me much about you."

"Yes?"

"()h, yes. Jim and I have known each other a long time. Almost ever since he has been home."

The sly old dog! He had said never a word to me. "I hope he hasn't given me too bad a reputation," I managed to say at last.

"Jim wouldn't give any one a bad reputation, least of all anyone he loves."

The quality of her voice rather than the words themselves sent a queer feeling through me. Who was this girl that knew Jim so well



They were married, quietly—I acted as best man—and departed hastily for Africa—Jim's leave being up—after a brief honeymoon. After they had gone the world seemed lonelier than it had ever felt before. I understood Jim's reasons for thinking of matrimony out there

"What a question to ask Mr. Sparkton!" she chided,

"I think," I said, hoping my voice was steady, "I think

"I'm glad, old man, and I'm sure she is. You see,

Sybil has done me the great honor of promising to become

and tapped him playfully with her fan, a gesture which might have been prompted by pure coquetry or some-

Sybil! He knew her as well as that!

thing else.

my wife!

she's awfully nice.



this letter. The day after I received it I enlisted . . . Within six months I was bound for France Over there I got strafed a bit, but

As I said I don't know what prompted me to join up unless it was

But if it weren't for her, I don't

the one thing which might have saved a lot of trouble didn't happen. It rarely does except in books. Though I did get a few Blightys, which brought me leave and the usual mention in dispatches.

FTER my second return from A the front-shrapnel neck and shoulders-and I was resting quietly in England, it suddenly occurred to me I had undergone a metamorphosis. I could not think of Syhil withoutqueer little shivers passing through me and my pulse beating faster. Once again I was a free man; and I was glad. But it was temporary only.

There were letters from Jim, good old Jim, complimentary letters that were filled with many "I wish I could get a chance to go to France or even to get mixed up in the shin-dig here. And things are pretty hot at present in German East." But the queer part was that his letters were full of my deeds and of his own wishes, and contained little reference to Sybil. Only I didn't notice it particularly at the time.

I was returned to France and for a time Jim and Sybil were almost forgotten in the press of more important affairs. There was a sudden advance, one of those small things which were hardly mentioned in the papers at home. I got into a jam. A bayonet found my left arm-"Fortunately, it's the left," I thought as I

went down-and something hit me on the head . . . Hospital again and consciousness and the sister—God bless those women for their care of broken men-bending over me, a smile on her face, saying: "Better now,

Captain Sparkton?"
"Captain?" Had I won premotion?

"Captain Sparkton, M. C.!"
"What!" I started to my elbow, and fell back with a groan as excruciating pain tore through my left shoulder. Involuntarily I reached. Then, I knew.

"It's gone," said the sister softly, and sudden tears glistened in her eyes-don't anyone ever tell me those women became hardened to suffering. "Do you care?"

"No," said I, though I cared. I did care. I cared like hell. But I wasn't going to show the white feather before one as fine as she.

T WILL mean Blighty, now, for you forever," said she softly.

"To hell with Blighty!" I cried unreasonably in the fashion of men.

She held a glass to my lips, still smiling. "Drink this!" she ordered. Meekly, a little ashamed, I obeyed ... She left me ... The opiate did not take effect at once. Alone, I turned my head to the pillow not without reminding pain from my left shoulder, and wept bitter. unmanly tears . . . [Turn to page 118]

in Africa where there was little to divert the mind of a man-a clean man. I began to think of getting married myself, only I knew it was a useless foolish thought. There would never again be another woman like Sybil. \nd Sybil was Jim's wife

I buried myself more and more in my business. Sir Mortimer was really not a bad sort. He promoted me. had new responsibilities and harder work.

dad. It helped me to forget.

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Came 1914, that fatal August, and War. I might have plunged in-Jim would have, but he was a romantic soul to forget completely the thing in my heart which I knew could never be forgotten, only somehow that seemed like a melodramatic thing to do. So I stuck to the ship.

\nd then in 1915 came the letter from Jim.
"I feel like a damned slacker," he wrote, "perched out here when I know I ought to be there doing my bit. But the Government won't release me and I can't afford to quit. I've got to think of Sybil-who by the way sends you her love—being a married man now, and my pension.

When I Came To---!

Which Has to Do With Three Girls and a Cottage in Maine!

HAD just celebrated my eighteenth birthday and was proud of the snappy boking blue roadster with the shining front and big balloon my my present from Dad How I loved him for it! It was the object of admiration of the boys and girls of my et, and, I might add, the envy of some of them

However, in a short time I simply thought of it as an ordinary part of my everyday life, and riding around town mandidult seem much different from riding in Dad's car or in Dot's father's car

or in Dot's father's car.
My two chums, Doris Pres.
My and Louise Merriam agreed with me that it was a terribly dull summer. We have a problem to the season was no change for us.

One evening at dinner I ked Daddy to suggest some thing for us to do. He did

WELL, Betty," he said,
"why not drive up to my
farm in Maine with Dot and
Louise? It won't be difficult
to find and if you're really
looking for something different
in the way of recreation I
haven't any doubt about your
finding it in this place. I
haven't had a chance to go up
there the last few summers,
had it's

Why hadn't I thought of the He had spoken so often

of the place, but I always dismissed the idea of going, because I thought of the outlandish location. But now there was nothing for us to do but fill up my roadster with provisions, take an early start, and by sundown we would be there

Of course," Dad continued, "vou understand that the louse has a history. It hasn't been occupied for bout ten years, and those old settlers up there have all nds of wild tales about the place. But I know you're of superstitious or scary, and besides, I'm going up just oon as I put through a deal I'm now working on."

Dad helped us get off that morning, routing us down to "and turn into an old road, where the weeds and tushes almost meet in the middle, go about a half-mile.



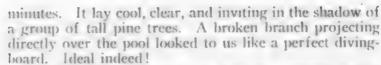
And there we were, much sooner than we had expected to arrive. Dot and Louise jumped out of the car before I could stop it, so eager were they to see our new abode. "Ye gods!" said Louise. "That's a wow!"

Then we started to explore the place. It was fairly well furnished, as Dad had said. Cob-webs were in the corners, and the dust was so thick that our tracks showed up like snow-tracks. As we walked across the floor every step brought about a fearful squeak. Before opening a door there was always a whispered command of "Be quiet, now," ears strained, listening for some sound.

After nosing around from one room to another, and finding everything as Dad said we would, we decided

Another Midnight Thriller

"Do You Suppose It's an Army of Big Rats?" Dot Asked. "No," I Said; "Sounds More Like Elephants to Me!"



We were still hot, dusty, and decidedly uncomfortable after our long, steady drive.

"What could be sweeter than a cold plunge right now?"

"Perfect," answered Dot.
"Suits me, too," from Louise.

Being miles away from the rest of the world and with dusk beginning to fall, we undressed there in the thicket, and, really and truly "back to nature" in the truest sense, we plunged in. All three agreed it was the most perfect swim any one of us ever had.

After swimming, diving, and jumping around for over an hour, we dressed and returned to the house, tired and happy. So far it had been positively thrilling in its big

Our next problem was choosing beds. One of us had to take the cot in the small bedroom. Slips of paper torn into three lengths settled that. The two long strips bunked together, while the short one took the cot. Dot and I drew the long ones. The cot fell to Louise. She was a real sport and took it laughingly.

It really was silly to be afraid-oh yes, we knew that yet, with darkness all around us and only two candles for light, it was a spooky atmosphere. Surely Dad couldn't have realized how scary it really was or he never would have permitted us to come without protection.'

WELL—we weren't hothouse flowers. If it came to a showdown I guess our combined forces would make a fair showing. We were all trained in athletics, and Louise played on our girls' football team at school. We had nothing to fear as we sat there and summed up our strength against some imaginary foe. We called it "imaginary" then.

I glanced at my wrist-watch. Nine-thirty! Time to retire in the country. We unpacked our fresh bed linen, made our beds, and donned our pajamas.

Dot and I went into Louise's room and tucked her in her bed. The nights are very cool in Maine in spite of the intense heat of the days. After bidding her goodnight, we jumped into our own bed and in a very few minutes were dead to the world.

We had been sleeping for over an hour when I awoke with a feeling of deadly fear. How horribly black it was in that room! And in heaven's name what were those grating sounds underneath the [Turn to page 90]



that the big kitchen and two bedrooms leading off it would suffice for living-quarters during our stay

Our first nervousness had passed, and we began preparing supper in a really hilarious mood. We talked and laughed over our fears, and decided then and there we were going to have the time of our lives. And we were—even more than any of us realized at that particular moment.

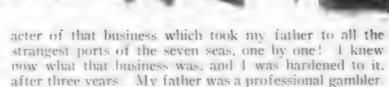
After eating our supper, which had consisted of hot dogs, canned beans, rolls and coffee, we decided to walk around a bit and look things over. Dad told us we would ind his "old swimmin' hole" just a short distance from the house. This was the object of our walk, really.

We found it after searching around for about ten

The Seventh,

Player

I Had Heard the Other Men Discuss Him, This Seventh Player. He Had Come In Three Months Ago, and His Aim Was to "Drink Himself Out."



The men accepted their drinks in character. A little, lithe Frenchman who held some sort of minor Government post caught my hand and kissed it. He released it like a hot coal, however, when Father rapped his glass

down on the table. These men feared my father.
"It's a gift, Fleur it's a gift," the Englishman said heartily, smacking his lips.

The dark Argentine whom I particularly disliked merely looked at me covertly, murmuring his "Gracias" with that inflection in his voice which was a warning for I had learned men, traveling with my father, if nothing else.

\ Swede and a suave Chinese gentleman of quality merely grunted their acknowledgments, and the seventh member of that company said not a word, merely picking up his glass to drain it at a gulp, then hunching down over his cards again.

I was free to go now, free until that sharp summons of my father's rang out again. But I lingered. I stood watching the seventh player, the one who had had not even a glance for me. The room was blue with smoke and I don't know whether it was that or the pathetic aspect

MILE AND THE COOK Heur!"

I was standing on the veranda of our place in l'apeete, my arms clinging about a rude post, my and ecped in the fragrance that rose from the wilderless of flowers that was the garden of our newest home

It my father's voice, I went into the great, hare livingin m with a regretful glance back over my shoulder at he beauty of the tropical night. 'We had been but three weeks in Tahiti and I was intoxicated with the thick gold of its moonlight and the profusion of its flowers and the race of the yellow girls and men we saw about us Hany strange ports my father and I had wandered into, Int never one so captivating as this small, strange island of the South Seas

"Jorinks, Fleur," my father ordered crisply, not,look 0 - up from his cards

His companions looked up, however. Their eyes opraised me as I came slowly into the room and began maxing drinks at the well-stocked buffet, a part of the enty furnishings of our living-room

I had no need of asking their preferences. Night after I wan they gathered here to play, and night after night I Lixed their drinks. Three weeks in Papeete, and already im father had his usual following. I laughed a little under cover of the clink of glasses. How I had wondered, back in my boarding schools, as to the interesting char-



of the seventh player, but I felt the sting of tears under my eyelids suddenly.

He was so young, so slumped in his chair, so nearly unconscious from liquor,—that young American. They were fleecing him so unmercifully. He played mechanically, reaching fumblingly for his empty glass every ten seconds or so. He'd stare at it, realize that it was empty, and go back to his playing. My father was winning. My father always won, excepting for the times when, craftily, he'd lose a little.

Winking that sudden sting of tears from my eyes I watched the American, trying to reconstruct the man, or rather the boy, from the wreck that was all we knew of Dexter Fenton. He'd have had nice, alert blue eyes, I thought, once freed from that bloodshot fog that enveloped them habitually here in Papeete. He'd have had nice shoulders, too, released from the slump that was upon them. His teeth were fine and white.

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I'd heard the other men discuss him, this seventh player. He'd come in three months ago from the States and the general opinion was that his aim was to "drink Whatever else Charles Aveille was, he was quick. Before I was able to move he had leaped across the veranda and into the room. When I reached the doorway this is the tableau I saw.

MY FATHER had toppled from his chair onto the floor. A smoking gun lay on the table before him, but with the butt toward the boy from the States. The head of the boy from the States was down on the table One hand was under his head, the other hung limp at his side.

The Argentine was calmly standing a little apart, coolly lighting a cigarette. His lips curved down in an ugly smile as he saw the Frenchman's gun trained on him.

"Fenton there did the shooting," he said indifferently. He pointed to the pistol on the table. "Take your gun off me, vou damn' weasel," he added with a snarl There followed a flood of profanity in his native tongue.

to the wavered and turned his gun on benton. I can to the father. Aveille took the gun from the table and to ple a quick examination of my tather. "He's dead," to and matter of factly. I remember this, and I remember that thick mattering as the Frenchman lifted in he my head from the table and shook him.

Creamfout," the Lov muttered. And again, "Cleaned on Then a string of animely, ible words and a girl's

M (1) ITU''' Aveille and quickly as the Argentine anatered to the door "Not so quick!" He had wing of the gun about and upon the Argentine again. This boy, he is what you call out of the picture. He hant tree that shot." The Frenchman laughed.

11. \rgentine echoed his laugh

"He's a good actor," he admitted. "Two minutes ago

he was sitting up there playing and cursing, as wide awake as you or I. Yes, he's a good actor, all right. Better lock him up, Aveille."

\veille wavered again, 1 remember, and then I rember no more. I never was a fainting type but I fainted then, quietly and completely. When I came to, the doctor was there and two men from police headquarters Dexter Fenton was lyne, forward over the table as before, but this time his two hands were on table. handcuffed. Aveille and the Argentine had gone. I gave a little cry and placed my hand on the how head, I remember. Then our native woman led me off to bed.

I don't understand it.

I cur "Gregory Morrison's

In a mooth English face

I puzzled. He ran a

landle over his reddish

moustache and looked at me.

I was the last to leave be
tore Aveille, and your father

lad all the money then. A

taly sum it was, too

mough to get you out of

this hole, at least."

"It seems there isn't any money, at all," I answered du'ly. "We lived—as you

-(1, ...

"It's hardly possible for that Argentine snake to have cornered it all in that truth of time." Morrison frowned. "The pickings of the whole crowd. A tidy sum."

"It's gone." I summoned a smile for him. The sturdy Englishman has turned out to be my one friend in Lahm

"Like as not that South American cove neatly pockcted it," Morrison growled. "Gad, the bounder." His strong teeth closed on his pipe stem with a click. "Been back here bothering you, too, hasn't he?"

I nodded. The Argentine hadn't been the only one to bother me. Aveille, too, and the Swede. Their tear of

my father was no more.

The frown on Gregory Morrison's reddish brow deepened. I looked at him gratefully. I'd learned to like him, to depend on him.

'You don't think either," I hazarded, with some difficulty—speaking of Dexter Fenton was for some odd reason hard for me—"you don't think either that Fenton was the one—"

"To fire the shot? No," he said decisively. "The boy was groggy proper when I left. No, it was Mario. A frame. But—well, doubtless some money changed hand between him and the Frenchman. We can do nothing.



'Ain't seen any body o' that description

Aveille's an official. It's you I'm bothered about," he went on kindly. "What are your plans?"

I didn't answer him for a moment. I was thinking of that blue-eyed boy lying in what passed for the Papeete prison, accused of a murder he remembered nothing about. My woman's intuition alone was enough to tell me Dexter Fenton was innocent. And, moreover, common sense proved that drugged, semi-conscious figure on the table that night could not have killed a man.

No. it had been Mario. Both Morrison and I believed this, but as Morrison had said, we could do nothing. It was impossible for me to think of my own plight. For Dexter Fenton things were infinitely worse.

"You have friends, possibly? Relatives?" Morrison was saving hopefully.

I nodded a slow negative. My father and I had had no friends, no relatives.

"It's bad," Morrison said. He began that bothered rubbing of his moustache again. "I've tried the few better class French families for a governess position, companion, something like that. There's nothing."

I smiled again, gratefully, at him. He was too kind to tell me what the real trouble was. The better class women of these rag tag ports—I knew how slow they'd be to mix up with a girl from a gambling den. I had learned women, too, in my three years of travel with Eather

I'LL take you back to England with me," Morrison said at last. He was a little embarrassed. "I have only a week more here, and my wife—my wife will be able to think of something." His ruddy face grew somewhat redder. I knew what was going on in his mind and I smiled again. His wife—I could picture her. A middle

class English prude. "No. I must stay here." I told him, giving him my hand as he rose to go. "You've been kind, Mr. Morrison. won't forget it. But you see—I feel that if I stay here---" I hesitated and again it was hard for me to speak of Fenton-"something may turn up to clear that boy. If I leave he will indeed be friendless."

"My child——" Morrison pressed my hand "you can do nothing. They'll pack him off the first boat after he shakes this fever off."

"I know—" My heart sank at his confirmation of my fears, "But something may turn up. I can't think—"things can go on, so wrong—"

"You're a plucky little cove, at any rate," my one friend in Tahiti told me admiringly. "At least you must let me look after you while I'm here."

In the end I did stay on in that queer little town, with its lazv air of nothing ever happening and its treacherous way of letting horrible things happen with a swiftness and secrecy that was like a knife thrust in the back.

My father dead. Myself alone and on my own resources. Mario, who I was convinced was the real mur derer, gambling on, drinking on, and daring to come about me with his love making. Dexter Fenton lying ill and it seemed dving with the cloud of murder hanging over his straight young body and a girl's name on his lips "Aline." [Turn to page 100]



around here?" he asked. "I see you have."



Alice and
I Are
Good
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—Because
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"Can't I admire a beautitul woman purely on the basis of her beauty?" I asked her.

The Two Hour

HE doctor asked me this morning—for the first time—just how it all happened. I suppose it means that he now thinks I am sufficiently recovered to think and talk about almost anything. Well, I've been thinking, at least, for several days now. It's ill I've got to do, until I'm all patched up and well again.

I remember a conversation at the dinner table at our house—oh, one or two years ago. Anyway, it was when my wife's cousin, Harvey Brown, and his wife. Helen, were with us one Sunday. When we start talking we speak pretty frankly. I forget what led up to it, but I remember my wife said—and she didn't look at me

"A woman never knows a man until she marries him."
"Great Scotts!" I said: "that's just when she doesn't know him."

"Don't you fool yourself," Julia came back at me, like 1 flash. "A wife soon finds out things. She knows all about him."

"Yeah," I said, just as quick. "She knows so many things about him that she knows a lot of things that aren't so." And I laughed.

Of course we often say these things half in fun, when we are talking in front of Harvey and Helen. But Julia right away took that as personal, which it was, partly.

"James Judd, do you mean to insinuate that I don't

know all about your mean, little-

And here Harvey joined in, trying to pour oil on the troubled waters. "Don't you remember what old Dr. ()liver Wendell Holmes said something about there being three Johns: first, the real John, and only God knows just what he is; second, the John that his friends see; and third, John as he himself thinks he is."

WAIT a minute." I interrupted. "That fellow overlooked something. There is still a fourth John, being John as his wife sees him, which is very different from all the others

"No!" came from Julia; "that's the first one, the real John. She knows him, and——"

Now, I've thought about that conversation a lot since that time, from the standpoint of both sides.

But I was interested in the other side of the proposition



Stop-Over

because of the way that my friend and neighbor. Benjamin Cox, worships his wife. As Helen said, it isn't human nature for any women to be as good as her doting husband thinks she is. Not that I want to throw any stones at my neighbor's wife, for we're all friends—too friendly, Julia might have said. I don't suppose Alice Cox is any better or any worse than the average woman. As a matter of fact, she is in many ways a lovely woman. I guess "lovely" is just about the right word. And so far as any actual slip is concerned—well, she isn't just exactly all that Benny, in his worship, thinks she is.

Benny Cox is a good fellow. Not brilliant, but he is steady, holds down a fairly good job, does his stuff, earns a decent living and is an all-round good citizen. Yet he has no special personality, no particular color, nothing that would knock your eye out. Julia says that the only reason Alice married him was because he was so persistent that she could not get rid of him any other way.

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He was crazy about her; he still is, and so his imagination supplies her with all kinds of virtues. As I said, she is not a bad sort of a woman, by any means. She is goodlooking, and she is very well built. She is a good house-keeper, takes reasonably good care of Benny, and all that.

However, she is not above a little flirtation, on the quiet, although Benny, in his wonderful faith, would not believe her capable of any such thing. Why, even if he caught her at it, he would still think it was all right—I mean, he would think that it was only the pleasantries of friendly and polite social usage.

NOW, that is just the difference between Benny's attitude toward his wife and Julia's attitude toward me. Julia is always suspicious, distrustful of my conduct, always ready to think the worst, and not only to think it but to declare it. To hear her talk you would think that I was meaner than the composite of the hundred meanest men in the world. The fact that we don't see things the same way does not indicate that I am a deep-dyed villain. I am just a human being. I like my friends; I love my home; I even love my wife, when she is not scolding or fretting me. I am pleased when I do a good job in my

work, and the boss says so. I like a good show. I like to land. I like to play. I like a good prizefight. I am about good music. I like fresh air and good music. I like fresh air and good music. I love beauty. I have be to look at beautiful women.

Well, that's part of the trouble. To me beauty is whether I find it in the sunset, in the flowers, or in a woman's eyes--or, for that matter, in her figure. Hur Julia thinks, since I am married, I should not even are a pretty woman, just as if my eyes could pick out mily the plain ones. The trouble is that she always asin the my interest i personal It isn't Anyway, it particularly or objectionably so. I can be perfectly from there, and I am telling you that a man may admire a beauty woman purely on the basis of her beauty, and without any personal interest whatever. When I said that to Julia one evening, she only laughed in high scorn and derision. I added that it would be impossible for a men to be personally attracted by all of the women whose locaty has been enough to attract his notice.

You see, she just cannot understand that a man in a quite thoroughly decent. At least, she cannot that, that her own husband is. She can believe that lieuw Cox is, but not that I am.

The truth is that I have always had a great respect for a men. I am just built that way. My father was that

way, and I was brought up like that. I have never shown any cheap familiarity with the girls in the office, and consequently I have always had the complete respect of the young women working under me. Besides, it has always seemed to me that all the young women I have ever met were good. I am not especially shy, in a social way, but I certainly would be shy in the matter of any personal advances. I just would not know how to become "fresh." And yet Julia thinks, to hear her talk, that this is my one chief interest in life.

SOMFHOW, Julia has not been particularly jealous with respect to our neighbor's wife, Alice Cox. Of course she has made some sarcastic cracks about my supposed interest in Alice, but not to show that she was really jealous. Maybe because Benny sticks too closely to Alice. And yet, Julia might easily have had some reason for suspicions in that quarter.

I might as well be frank in saying that Alice Beatrice Cox is attractive—well, physically attractive, to the extent that I have been conscious of it. She just happens to be built that way. I suppose she is attractive to other men. Some women are more so, no doubt, than others, and it may be that because of this very quality they are themselves in turn more inclined to be attracted to men. I do not wish to judge Alice Cox on that account. I suppose my own consciousness of her [Turn to page 132]



Four Scores

another reason!

MARGIE HIMES is one of the very good reasons why "Big Boy" continues to stay on Broadway. She has the beautiful figure which counts so much in a musical show, and is a clever dancer. Of course, Al Jolson is







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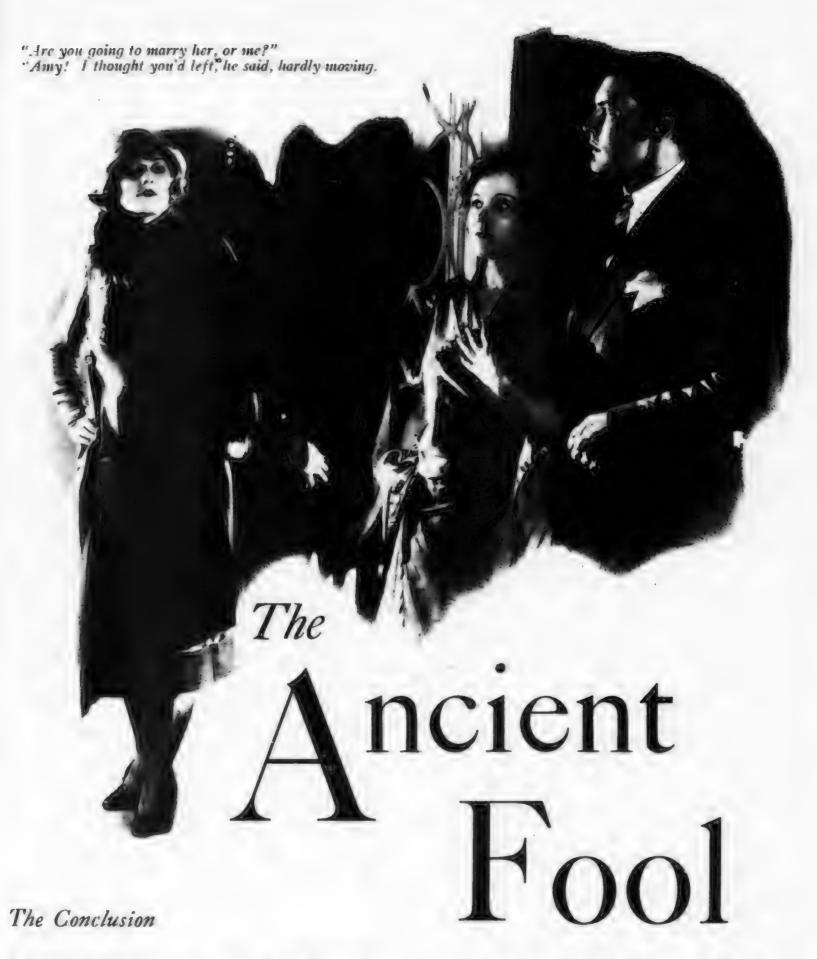
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NOT GUILTY!" was the verdict of the jury after my trial, charged with the murder of James Brandeis. I had been his private nurse, and an overdose of medicine had caused his death.

Nevertheless, I was branded in the public eye; no one would want me for a nurse, until——

Richard Hilton was the District Attorney—young, handsome, and eloquent. Soon after his failure in prosecuting me, I received a letter of congratulations from his uncle, Ambrose Hilton, who asked me to call to see him.

Curiosity won out, and I went. Moreover, I was employed as nurse to this "ancient fool," as he called himself, soon finding that his nephew was occupying the same apartment. I learned, also, that Richard Hilton was soon to marry Amy Fulton, and I hated Amy Fulton.

soon to marry Amy Fulton, and I hated Amy Fulton.

After I was well established with old Ambrose, he ventured to tell me that his money and a weak heart might induce me to marry him. I refused the offer. It was all clear. He didn't want Richard to have his money.

It was one night during one of Ambrose Hilton's severest attacks that I first saw Amy Fulton.



shoulder of the man we both loved. For I did love Richard Hilton. In that instant I knew it! And my heart cried out against the injustice of it, for he hated me, bitterly. There were times when I had hoped to soften that hate, but that episode of the previous evening, the bruise on my arm, proved to me how greatly he hated me

We glared at one another, she and I, and my heart melted within me. She had everything; home, friends, money, Richard's love. I had nothing; no home, no friends, no money, and only Richard's hate.

"Looks like a scene from a bed-room farce," Amy Fulton remarked haughtily.

"What has happened?"

Richard ignored her, and looked at me.

I shook my head.

"Pete called me. We have sent for the doctor."

Ambrose moved his hand feebly.

"It's—all—right," he said with a great effort.

Richard came to the bedside then, and very tenderly took the old man's hands from mine.

"Is it as bad as last time?"

"Worse," whispered Ambrose. With his eyes he adored Richard.

Amy Fulton interrupted.

"Who will take me home, please?"

Richard ignored her.

"Richard, I wish to go. I refuse to stay another instant in this—"

"Amy!" he flung around on her. Then, "Do you realize that this young woman is my uncle's nurse?"

"Nurse!" she scoffed. "She looks like a nurse! Is this a new uniform nurses have affected?"

She kicked daintily at the trailing end of my negligee. I stood up abruptly.

"Please," I begged. "The least disturbance may be very bad for Mr. Hilton." I turned to Richard. "If you wish I will leave the room."

"No," he said suddenly, to my great surprise; "your place is here. My uncle needs you. Let her go."

I had never seen him so angry, not even when he flailed me at the trial.

Amy flushed, and then paled a deadly white.

"Very well, I can easily call a taxi, if the safety of your tuture wife means less to you than the welfare of that licentious old man—and his mistress!"

There was a deep silence. Richard did not move. With a snort Amy almost ran from the room.

O," SAID old Ambrose feebly to Richard. Then he put out a hand toward me. I took it and began to rub it gently. Richard Hilton looked at me. For a minute I met his gaze, then I dropped my own eyes, for in his was the strangest expression I had ever seen. I could not tell whether it was hate or admiration, distaste or liking, aversion—or love!

"You had better go," I said slowly. "Your uncle is easier now. The doctor will soon be here."

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At that instant the door opened again, and Dr. Hadley hurried in. With a curt nod to Richard, he went at once to old Ambrose. He bent above him, sought his pulse. He did not notice me. But he nodded to Richard.

He's coming out of it, all right. Must have a good



I managed with stiff lips. I forced a smile.

"My duty, even as you yourself have just said."

"What are you doing here?"

He frowned.

"Is this your doing?" he asked, turning to Richard.
"Hardly." The answering smile was sarcastic? "Uncle
Ambrose would have her."

"He'll go a step too far with his philanthropy some of

these days."

Ambrose was struggling for speech. "She's all—right," he managed.

"A far better nurse than you are a doctor," I flung at him. "I've done everything in my power to keep this room quiet, even to accepting insults. The minute you enter, you upset the patient by a scene."

"Take her out," he said to Richard, over my shoulder.

Richard looked at me.

I turned to go; he followed me.

In the hall, he put a kindly hand on my shoulder.

"I'm sorry," he said.

The kindness of his tone, the reaction, the full sense of bitterness was too much for me. I found myself sobbing against his shoulder.

"Oh, I'm not had! I'm not a murderess! Please don't

hate me.

His arm went around me comfortingly.

"I don't hate you," he answered; "I wish to goodness I did."

At that instant of bliss, a rude hand tore his arm from about me.

A RE you going to marry her, or me?" Amy Fulton's furious voice sounded in my ears.

"Amy!" Richard was amazed; "I thought you'd left."
"Yes, of course you thought so. I let you think so:
I wanted to see how far affairs had gone between you and
-this woman." Suddenly she flung herself into his arms,
and beat his breast with her clenched fists. "Dickie!
Dickie! Are you going to let a vile woman, a murderess,
and goodness only knows what else, come between us?
Are you, Dickie? I've always hated her. I know her
kind. 'The doll-faced thing! Are you going to let her
come between us, Dickie?"

"I haven't said so," answered Richard slowly.

Then take me home, Dickie. Take me home, and I'll marry you any time you say, next week, tomorrow. Only take me home. Dickie, don't you love me any more?"

"Amy, you're hysterical," he answered her plea.

But slowly he turned from me, threw her cape across

her shoulders, and together, they went out.

Which was the more bitter, I asked myself, there in the dark, leaning against the cold wall, to think that he hated me bitterly, and always would, or to know that he loved me, perhaps, and belonged to another? And such another! Her narrow face with its hard eyes, and the triumphant smile she had secretly given me as they left, appeared before me so vividly, I put out my hands to tear at it.

DICKIE." I moaned; "oh, Dickie, she will ruin

Despair closed in around me then. Always I had waited for a real man, a true man, my man. And he had come, and I could not have him. For weeks and weeks that feeling of love for Richard Hilton had grown stronger within me. I did not recognize it at first. During the trial, I had thought I hated him, for I had seen his hate, and known his persecution. But even that had not prevented my love. Looking back, I realized now that the real reason I had consented to come to Ambrose Hilton was the slight chance of sometimes seeing Richard. And now it was done. He had shown quite clearly this very night where his preference lay.

Perhaps it was better so. Surely for Richard Hilton to marry a suspected murderess, [Turn to page 100]

67





The man was Jim. He was only my husband, who had somehow, it seemed, failed

T WAS music that makes pulses thrum and hearts beat high—a Romany love-song impassioned by the wanderlust that long ago lured dusky Eastern people out of gaudy camps, and sent them adventuring down winding trails with romantic yearning in their vagabond hearts.

Like sensuous sorcery, it throbbed through the saffron dusk of Long Island summer that lent a golden enchantment to Roundrock Country Club. As my husband and I left our limousine and went up the club's broad steps. I suddenly seemed to belong to the music. I wanted to be thrilled by the things it suggested—adventure—romance! I wanted to stray down dim roads under strange stars, and hear again the eager voice of Love.

The music—or was it the glamorous crowd of masked revelers in Gypsy costumes?—promised fulfillment of my desires. I drifted across the veranda on his arm, soft fire burning in my veins. We were about to enter the main door together when a tall man swathed in red

What Came

Modern

for This

barred Jim. It was our first attendance at a Roundrock dance. Being new members, we did not know the mystery and intrigue that surround its annual Gypsy masquerade ball.

"Gentlemen must enter by the south wing door, please," said the tall man, pointing down the veranda where vari-colored lights were already beginning to spray the fading dusk with spurts of orange, purple, and green fire.

For a fleeting second I turned and watched my husband plunge into the colorful crowd. He did not merge with it, but moved through the babble—a tall, wide-shouldered giant in his bright raiment of the road. On all sides women lifted masked eyes and followed his graceful stride.

It was always that way. En masque, or not, Jim's ciean cut, good looks magnetized women's glances. He was to most of them what I was seeking in some other man—a breath of the lost Past—the fascinating charm, and the mystery of sex.

I went inside, smiling a strange little inner smile at the thought of Jim moving along the veranda like a sunbrowned heart-breaker from a Romany camp. It's funny how a man can be all of that to other women, and still remain only a husband to his wife. Nevertheless, that was the truth of the situation between Jim and myself after six years of matrimony, and I realized it anew as I stood before a full-length mirror in the ladies' dressing-room, fluffing out the curls of my black, bobbed hair.

Most likely the way we had lived before our wedding, as well as afterwards, was to blame. Belonging to a rich and fast-playing set in Westchester had stolen away most of our appreciation for the solid and true, leaving us only an appetite for the things of the flesh pots. As with the

Barg

from the

Craving

Freedom

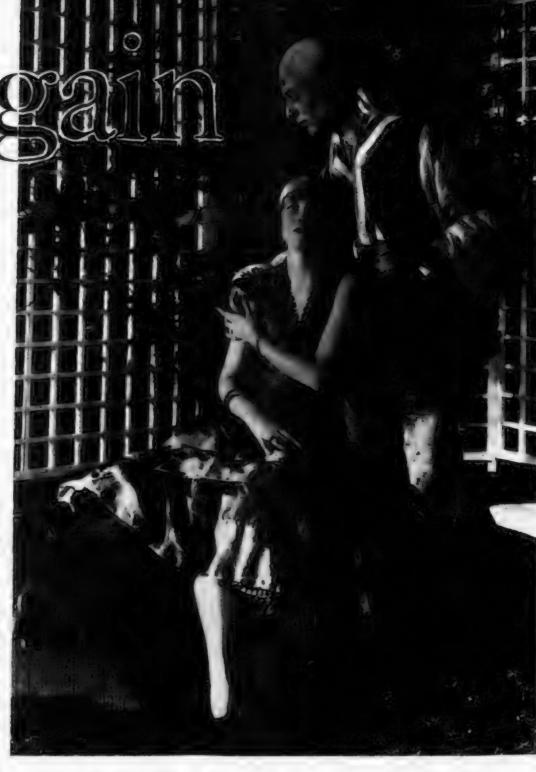
rest of the crowd, our marriage had come to mean little more than a convenient, social arrangement for the achievement of our individual objectives

It seems awfully shocking to admit this, and rather pathetic, too, but the scene around me proved that my situation was shared by countless other young married women. In the gorgeous room of shaded lamps and flashing mirrors pretty women, wearing diamond-studded wedding rings fastidiously improved their appearances, thrilled by the thought that the night might bring forth forbidden adventure.

You may wonder why I bothered on such a gala evening—with the memory of that barbaric Gypsy music still swaying me—to realize the emptiness of my marriage. Perhaps I can explain by saying it was the desires awakened by the Romany love-song that made my thoughts dwell on this subject. You see, the music of those violins and banjos had made me yearn for what Life, or my own blindness, had apparently cheated me of. It is always that way with a woman when she possesses everything in the world except the conscious knowledge of romance. She easily believes she has been cheated!

S(). I went out of the dressing-room as I am sure many other married women of the Roundrock Country Club went that night—hoping to find romance masquerading in the bright silks of a Gypsy! Just beyond the threshold a maid gave me a pair of unmatched earrings. A tag marked eighty-six was attached to the smaller one, which was evidently meant for a woman to wear.

"Madame must go down to the grand salon. There the gentleman holding earring number eighty-six will claim her," explained the maid.



At the foot of the great, carved staircase a lackey, resplendent in gold and velvet trapping, noted the number on my tag and then escorted me to one of several doors that faced the salon. Opening it, he bade me enter a tiny chamber whose purple dimness was thinned by a tongue of orange fire that danced from a vague candle. Bidding me sit down on the divan, he tip-toed out of the room, returning shortly like a phantom bearing something that flashed through the velvet shadows. It was a silver tray holding a cocktail shaker and two long-stemmed silver glasses. The lackey picked up the shaker and whisked it back and forth expertly. A sound filled the tiny room—a sound suggestive of ice playing a tune—a tinkling tune against refined metal. Shortly the tune died away and the man bent over, pouring a frothing amber drink into each of the silver glasses. Immediately afterwards, he replaced the shaker on the tray and hurried away with a gesture that I should wait a moment.

My eyes were on the door expectantly when it opened again. The phantom-like lackey did not glide inside this time. In his place came a tall, [Turn to page 138]

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SMART SET Magazine Read the Con

AVE you ever wondered how we get our stories for SMART SET when we never order one? Where do they come from when we have no staff?

Of course I'm always talking about how our readers are our writers—but have you ever stopped to think just what that means?

It means that every month we pay five thousand dollars for stories, and pictures, many of them by people who never wrote before.

That is mere routine work, but I want to call it to your attention as powerfully as I can.

Would you write a story for a thousand dollars? Of course you would! So I'm going to give SOMEBODY a thousand dollars for a story. And I'm going to give four other people two hundred and fifty dollars each for their stories. And I'm going to buy as many of the others which are submitted as I find suitable for publication.

We're not looking for stories by professional writers. Big names don't mean a thing to SMART SET, because we don't use names on

Country Club

Missouri

These pictures are actual illustrations of SMART SET stories. They come from every corner of the earth!

For Your Stories

Fishermen's Village

is the Most Romanta in the World. ditions of Contest.

10

no

er

our stories anyway. We want the story What we want are the little dramas of every-

day life. We want you to clear the cohwebs out of your head and see what you can do with that story which has been stored away for so long.

I don't believe you realize how interesting it is to write a story. Get the family together and work it up as if you were playing a game. Everyone may be able to add a bit to it, and you will be surprised how fast the time flies once it starts to grow.

It will carry you back to things you have forgotten. It will bring memories of winter clays when you went coasting—of voices which have long been silent.

Where are all these dead memories of yours? Have they passed away forever? Or do they just need a little wakening to make you live the past over again?

That is the very spirit of SMART SET. We all want to stay young together. We want to recall the thrills which lie behind us—or if we are still very young we want to know the thrills which those who are old enough to have experienced the heart-breaks of the war can give us.

Have you [Turn to page 82]





You can write a story as good as these. Perhaps you can see it published!

Quaker

sgrin s



FTEN I have pictured to myself old Jonathan Ladwell sitting upright in bed, his hands outstretched as if to feel and apprehend the menace of the night, and trembling a little in the pale wash of

True, the house was old and big, and given to creakings and groanings—but not on a windless night such as this! There, again! Some heavy body crossing the floor downstairs.

Someone was in the house besides himself!

For a moment helpless tears mounted to his eyes, the moisture of senile self-pity. He was old, and the scrapings and savings of a lifetime were not fair spoil for the young and vigorous, against whom he was defenseless. He was a fool to let young Martin take the dogs and go hunting. He wondered if he had not been too lenient with young Martin, the favorite nephew who lived with him, and who, as recompense, would in the end inherit from him. Well, well, young men must have their diversions.

Listen! There it was again—creaking—on the stairs? No, down on the lower floor still. Perhaps, perhaps this marauder would be content to remain below, where there

was small plunder.

He must not come up! That ran through his brain, inducing action. Here, upstairs, in the next room, which was his office, and so near old Jonathan as he slept, was the only bank he believed in. The marauder must not come up. Once up, of what avail the scanty, if desperate, strength of age? Age must have at least the advantage of the stairs. Old Jonathan Ladwell pivoted on the bed, letting his old shanks down over the side, until his feet padded noiselessly on the floor. He shook as with an ague. Mosgrin's words rang in his ears: "You're an old fool to keep your money in the house. Some day we'll hear Jonathan Ladwell has been found in bed with his throat cut!" Mosgrin, the blacksmith, said that. It was Mosgrin who had made the lower floor secure with hars.

Desperation urged Ladwell on. From a drawer, stealthily, he took a revolver. He held it as one afraid of weapons. He crossed a pale pool of moonlight, his hand tightening about the revolver. He wondered whether Martin had left it loaded. He almost hoped the ammunition had all been expended on the crows. A timorous old fellow was Jonathan Ladwell, and as much afraid of the menace in his hand as of that below stairs.



The well of the staircase was fortunately dark; the hallway below held a gleam of moonlight. Ladwell, peering cautiously over, saw a shadow waver, obscuring the gleam, resolving itself into a man's figure, stairward bound!

His fright found tongue.
"Go 'way!" he shrilled. "Go away. I can see you! I can see you, and I'll fire!" His unaccustomed hand nervously fingered the trigger. There was a flash, the sound of fleeing footsteps, of a banging door, of a runner on gravel outside. Old Ladwell was alone in the house, a shaking, paralyzed figure, too fearful to appraise the extent of his victory.

For a long while he stood clutching at the rail. Then courage began to return; he even managed a light, and cautiously examined the revolver. He had fired the last shot! Well, the scoundrel would not return tonight. And tomorrow he would get it reloaded. He did not

know where Martin kept the ammunition, nor was he sure how one went about reloading the thing. He would take it to Mosgrin in the morning.

He started suddenly, trem-

bling.

From far in the distance, down at The Corners, came the sound of a dog howling. That was Mosgrin's dog! He knew it, and shuddered. Once the dog had been his, a muchfeared creature of huge proportions and slavering jaws. He had given it to Mosgrin. "I'll be glad to have it," "All the tramps in the district come by Mosgrin said. The Corners!"

Mosgrin was the only man who could safely handle the The fear of it was great in all our countryside, and to hear him break silence in the night was sufficient to set more than us village children shivering in our beds.

T HAD grown to be a tradition with us that when Mosgrin's dog howled at night, there was some evil afoot nearby . .

Mosgrin was right enough about the popularity of the crossroads where the smithy stood. Partly it was the natural location of the place; partly the ice-cold well in the yard, at which the itinerent and the wayfarer quenched a thirst gained on the road; partly, perhaps, it was the undeniable joy of lingering to watch the operations of

anvil and forge, and to smell the queer, homely, pungent odor of the horseshoeing.

We of the village knew at once whether or not these wayfarers were habituated or not, by their approach to the smithy. If they had passed this way before, they remembered, and gave a wide berth to the kennei at the entrance to the yard, allowing generous space beyond the range of chain that

The incident of the dog is an actual case—many years ago, in an Irish village—and was told by a man who came from there.

THE AUTHOR.

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Mosgrin allowed his dog; they seemed never to forget.

I remember well enough, when passing on my way to school one day, seeing an unfortunate spaniel wander within reach, and his throat as keenly slit as with a knife; and how, in spite of Mosgrin's dusting over the place with a few kicks of his heavy boots, we pointed with awe to the stains until the first rain came to wash

them away.

To go to and from the schoolhouse most of us, as I say, had to pass the smithy, and, as I figure it now, at about the time when old Ladwell set out from his lonely big house—wherein was enacted the night's scene that I have reconstructed from his own story-I was approaching The Corners by the small descent; that

Bones said that. Hey, come back!"-for I had edged away. "Look, sonny; you'll just run down and fetch a few matches, and I'll be waiting behind that bush down there opposite the smithy-understand? And don't fail me, or-

I stammered that I wouldn't.

He followed me part way down the road, until, . turn where one comes immediately upon The Corners, he disappeared expertly behind the hedge again. And suddenly I heard him give a snarling oath to the morning air, for Mosgrin's dog came from his kennel, sniffed

suspiciously, and broke into a furious racket, dragging ferociously at his

> There was a dog-cart outside the smithy, behind whose meagre protection

> > I passed to escape the notice of Mosgrin's dog, and so entered. The place was gloomy after the brightness of the out-of-doors, and I paused on the threshold, blinking at the scene before me.

A little dandy of a man was standing, hands in breeches pockets, teetering back and forth upon his toes, and reiterating with a certain evil content: "Saturday at the latest, Mosgrin! Not an inch further than Saturday!" Mosgrin's hands were working so that his mighty stood out. muscles When presently the little man cackled into laughter, Mosgrin lifted a huge arm and shook his fist under the nose of his visitor; and then, as suddenly, ceased this perform-

ance, and stood, legs apart and hands on hips, staring down at his leathern apron as if for inspiration.

The little man chuckled.

"I thought you'd see it, Mosgrin!" he said; glanced at a great round turnip of a watch; nodded; added: "See you by Saturday then!" and was gone, the dog following him with vicious protests.

B IG Mosgrin snatched some white-hot metal from the forge, set it upon the anvil, and beat it with a heavy mallet as if it were a mortal enemy, and the flying sparks the breath of life departing from it under the blows. Outside, the dog, after a further furious barking, subsided, and the ringing blows alone filled the smithy with what seemed the honest sound of labor.

Torn between twin fears, I ventured at last a timid: "Mr. Mosgrin!"

He turned on me at the second repetition, to ask. curtly: "Well-what's for you?"

And there I was, with my heart pounding at what I had seen of a big man in mighty anger, and at thoughts of old Bag-o'-Bones outside awaiting me.

'A match, please!" I said.

"A match? Ho, ho! Sulphur is for the devil, not for



dipped down from the plateau on which was my own home. September weather was at its best, and the hedges sparkled with dew in the morning sunlight, for I remember that when, suddenly, a man stepped out from among the bushes and accosted me, his shoulders were quite wet.

He was a skinny individual, his big frame scantily hung with flesh, his eyes keen and shifty. His face seemed curiously lop-sided, the explanation of which lay in a long scar, running pretty well from ear to mouth on the left side. Of this he seemed sensitive even before a lad like myself.

"Got a match, sonny?" he asked. "Come now, don't you go for to say yer afraid of old Bag-o'-Bones. Where's the match? Make haste now; my mornin' pipes

late as it is!"

"I-I h-haven't one, s-sir!" I chattered. And then with desperate inspiration, for he was an object to inspire fear, "if you'll go to the s-smithy there, Mosgrin will give you one."

He swung on me, and I saw that his scar had suddenly

turned lurid purple. "Mosgrin?" He He swore a vicious oath. "That's the blacksmith fellow? May he eat sulphur world without end! There now, don't you go tellin' him old Bag-o'-

school-boys. Out with you now; I'll have no part or lot in your corn-cob smoking behind the barn. Off wi' you, and thank me for saving you a-tanning!"

"B-but---"

"Out wi' you, or-"

He brandished a rod of metal, white-hot at the nether end. I fled; nor did I stop until I had reached the schoolhouse, deeply repenting that I had not waited for company on the road this morning, and wondering if other of the boys would encounter old Bag-o'-Bones, and still more what had become of him, for Mosgrin's dog had since relapsed, with apparent finality, into silence.

As I went into the schoolyard, I remember seeing pass by—afoot, for he was too miserly to own a rig—old lonathan Ladwell, heading toward The Corners. And I fell to speculating, awesomely enough, whether, if old Bag-o'-Bones waylaid him, he would be content to

demand only a match or two!

Jonathan Ladwell passed me without a look, and continued toward The Corners. What happened I am able now to tell in detail, pieced together from his own and the tales of others. As he went he occasionally chuckled to himself. In the broad light of day cowardice flees; and even last night Ladwell had won a victory. He had learned no longer really to fear young Martin's revolver! That was a step. He patted it in his mangy pocket, as if indeed it were a friend. Another time he might shoot

even straighter! What was life when his gold was menaced? Gold—real gold! Gathered, little by little, from many sources as opportunity came, that no whisper of it get around. Round, shining gold, and lots not yet turned into it: bills, silver—rent money. He kept bank accounts, of course—small ones, but deceptive because with several institutions. People believed he banked his rents! As if he would trust any bank with an appreciable sum!

The hedges grew high on both sides of the road. Hedges irridescent with the dew. These natural jewels were beyond old Jonathan Ladwell's appraisement. He had no soul room for them.

MARTIN would be away two days yet—one night more. He patted his pocket, where young Martin's weapon was.

As Ladwell approached the smithy, Mosgrin's dog stirred in its sleep, growled once, and slumbered again. Perhaps it knew this, its former owner; by day, too, guard duty was light. We of the village knew how remarkably well that dog of Mosgrin's was trained. Each night Mosgrin would say: "On guard, boy—on guard now! Let no one pass!" This was always just as he put up the shutters and retired to his bachelor bed. Each morning he would say: "Good dog! Good old boy! Let 'em in now, boy—let 'em in!" Then, except for suspicious characters, for whom the dog seemed to have





We will give three dollars for every joke published in this department. Items found unavailable will not be returned.

-THE EDITOR

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H. F. J., Toronto, Ont.

N A legal case of some importance, it was necessary to establish that one of the parties reached home on a particular night in a rather mellow condition. His valet, George, was in the stand and denied that his master had ever been intoxicated. On cross-examination he was asked:

"What did Mr. Smith do when he reached home?"

"He jus' went right to bed, suh." "Did he say anything to you?"
"No, suh, nothin' much."

"Well, now, tell us just what he did say." "Well, he says, 'Good-night, Geo'ge!'

"And did he say nothing else?"

well—" very reluctantly—early, Geo'ge." - "he says, 'Call me

"And didn't he say anything besides 'Good-night,

George: call me early'?

"Well, suh, then he says, 'Cause I'm to be Queen of the May.

H. M., New York City.

A NGERED DINER—"Look here, waiter. There's

Waiter (Ex-printer)—"Sorry, sir, that's a typo-graphical error. That should be mutton."



A. T.,

Alton, Ill.

SUPPOSE," said a lady to the conductor, "if I pay fare for my dog he will be treated the same as other passengers, and be allowed to occupy a seat?"

"Of course, madam," the conductor replied politely: "he will be treated the same as other passengers, and can occupy a seat, provided he does not put his feet on it!"

D. H.. Spartanburg, S. C.

THE fresh young traveling salesman put on his most seductive smile as the pretty waitress glided up to his table in the hotel dining-room, and remarked:

"Nice day, little

"Yes, it is," she reied. "And so was plied. vesterday, and my name is Ella, and I know I'm a pretty girl and have lovely blue eyes, and I've been here quite a while, and I like the place, and I don't think I'm too nice a girl to be working here. My wages are satisfactory and I don't think there's a



show or a dance in town tonight, and if there was I wouldn't go with you. I'm from the country and I'm a respectable girl, and my brother is the cook in this hotel, and he was a college football player and weighs three hundred pounds and last week he pretty nearly ruined a \$25-a-week traveling man who tried to make a date with me; now, what'll you have—roast beef, roast pork, Irish stew, hamburger or fried liver?"

L. F.,

Ogden, Utah.

WO old friends who had not seen each other for a I long time met in a restaurant one day.

"And by the way, old chap," said one, "how are you

getting on with Ethel? Did you ask her to marry you?"
"I sure did," was the reply, "but I didn't have any luck.
She asked me if I had any prospects."
"Well, that was easy. Why didn't you tell her about

your rich uncle?" asked his friend.

"Hang it all, I did!" answered the other sadly. "And now she's my aunt!"

Stories

Told by

SMART SET Readers

I. O., Butte, Mont.

STREET car collided with a milk cart and sent A can after can of milk splashing into the street. Soon a large crowd gathered. A very short man coming up had to stand on tiptoe to see past a stout woman in

"Goodness!" he exclaimed, "what an awful waste!" The stout woman turned around and glared at the little man, and said, testily:

"Mind your own business!"

V. M. G., Irwin, Ia.

MMA, a city girl, was visiting her uncle Joe on the farm. When uncle Joe went to milk, Emma went along. The cow would not be milked while Emma was

Uncle Joe: "The cow does not like your red sweater.' Emma: "O dear! I know it is terribly old-fashioned. but I didn't suppose a country cow would notice it.'

B. D. M., Spokane, Wash.

HOPE that's a I nice book for you to read, darling," said a conscientious mother her engrossed school-girl daughter.

"Oh, yes, mummy," said Miss Thirteen. "It's a lovely book, but I don't think you would like it. It's so sad at the end."

"How is it sad, darling?"

"She dies, and he has to go back to his wife."

J. H. E., Los Angeles, Calif.

WO darkies were coon hunting one night, and their dogs treed what they thought was a coon. One of the negroes climbed to the top of a cypress tree, only to be confronted by an enormous wildcat. The "bob cat" proceeded to make it hot for the negro, who shouted to his companion:

"Th'ow a rock up heah, niggah!"

"I cain't chunk a rock away up dah, chile." "Well, den, grab dat gun an' shoot up heah 'mongst us."



E. B., Canonsburg, Penna.

IMMY found the girl problem a little too much for

him, so he confided his difficulties to his chum.
"You see," he explained, "I've walked home from school with her three times and carried her books; bought her ice-cream once, and an ice-cream sody twice. Now, dontcha think I'd oughta kiss her?

His chum pondered the matter. "Naw," he decided finally. "You don't need to; you've done enough for that girl as it is.'

M. E. H., Wake Forest, N. C.

HE feminist orator had waxed very indignant over I the universal treatment of her sisters.

Just as if," she screamed, "all men are perfect! Why, there's not even one perfect man! I dare any one to name a perfect man!"

A meek looking little man in the back arose.

"What?" demanded the speaker. "Do you claim to have known a perfect man?"

"Well, I never really knew him," the little fellow said apologetically, "but I've heard a lot about him!"

"Who was he?" shrieked the speaker. .

"My wife's first husband."

N. R., El Paso, Tex.

PAT: "Can you swim?"
Ike: "No!"
Pat: "But what if the boat should

The boat capsizes and soon Pat is ashore. But what puzzles him, Ikey is,

Pat: "Thought you could not swim?" Ike: "I can't, but I just talked and talked, and here I am."

Santa Cruz, Calif. So YOU lost, Why

als

*

R. R. S.,

little man? didn't you hold on to your mother's skirt?"

"I couldn't reach it," sobbed the child.



Possibility!

The Great Life
Problem of a
Woman Whose
Dead Husband
Might Come Back

PROBLEMS? Life is full of them!
Some baffling—some readily solved.
Each year, each day, each hour has its problems. They creep into the lives of all mankind. None are exempt. Why should they be? Aren't those problems and the solving of them—LIFE?

Fifteen years ago, I took my problems as they came, and quickly disposed of most of them. Today, it is different. My whole being, my very soul, is enveloped with one problem—so difficult 'that a solution to it seems impossible. First of all, because in order to somewhat comprehend my problem, you must have the facts leading up to it, and, second, because I feel as though it would ease my mind to tell someone.

My childhood home, as I remember it, was a stronghold of religion. Yes, religion! The very walls of our poor little home echoed and re-echoed with that one word—and all that it implies to a devout Christian. My religion was made more essential to me than the bread which I ate. It was made to surpass everything in my childish life, and, as I grew older and was thrown upon my own resources at the breaking up of home, I still gave my church first place in my life.

My early youth was full of hardships, trials, and heartaches. I worked on different farms, and went to country school when I could. I was especially anxious for an education, so when I came to be of a high school age, I moved into the nearby town and worked my way through

high school. I graduated at the age of seventeen, and immediately sought a position, hoping to get office work of some kind. But somehow, I was afraid to start out into the world. I couldn't make myself leave the vicinity of my home. I had no particular friends in town, and still—well, I hated to break away from it all, somehow. So, as you can easily imagine, —there were practically no positions in



Still, how can I prove that Eugene is not alive?

such a small village—I found myself doing general housework for a well-to-do family. My work was hard, and life was a humdrum existence to me until Eugene came.

He was a decorator and paper-hanger, a stranger in the vicinity, but an energetic young man, and rather well liked about town. He came to do some papering at the home in which I was employed. That was the first time I saw him. I guess you might call it love at first sight. We were much attracted to one another, and within six months we were married. Yes, I'll admit that it was somewhat sudden, and that I was rather young, but I was tired to death of the way I was living, and, with a man like Eugene to love me and want to care for me, why, marriage seemed like a haven of rest. I loved my husband dearly, and our first year of married life was bliss.

Eugene worked hard to earn the money that I worked hard to save. Our upstairs rooms, though not elaborate, spelled "home."

Then came the happy time, as in

Then came the happy time, as in every real home, when I spent my evenings sewing tiny garments, while Eugene worked most vigorously in an attempt to transform, with a bit of white enamel, a dingy second-hand crib into a real [Turn to page 91]

Have you read the contest announcement on page 72 of this issue?

Private Secretaries to FAMOUS MEN



. . . Secretary to General J. Leslie Kincald, Vice-Presi-dent of the United Hotels Company of America.

... "Whenever I hear a private secretary say that her duties are becoming too much for her, I recommend that she try an easy writing Royal Typewriter. It is the easiest machine to operate that I ever used."

Mary Grant



. . . Secretary to Ray Long. Vice-President and Editor-in-Chief of the International Magazine Company.

... "My everlasting thanks to the inventive genius who de-veloped the easy writing Roya! Typewriter."

Mildred Temple



. . Secretary to Bartlett Arkell, President, Beech-Nut Packing Company.

"In an office like outs, where a rush of business often makes us work at high pressure, our machines must be just as smooth-going and unfaltering as our fingers. That is why I use the Easy Writing, Always Dependable Royal Typewriter."

M. Ellen Carroll



. . . Secretary to William T. Dewart, General Manager of the Frank A. Munsey Proper-ties.

"I like my Easy Writing Royal Typewriter because it is so light in touch and gives such clean, even copy."

Daisy Sorensen



"Compare the Work"



... "In my work, where speed, accuracy, and neatness are at a premium, the Easy Writing Royal Typewriter is my 'Star Performer'."

Lily Duyder

. Secretary to Edgar Selwyn, Actor, Playwright, Producer, Director and Theatre Magnate, among whose many national and international hits have been "Rolling Stones," "Dancing Mothers," "The Mirage," and others.

Private Secretaries and The Royal Typewriter

Secretaries who work for big menmen who want things right-find their employers pleased with the character of work they can turn out on a Royal Typewriter-

Men who do big things set a high standard of achievement in both speed and accuracy. The Royal Typewriter makes it easier to meet these standards-

Secretaries to men who are in a hurry must get the day's work done;

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And—the Secretary whose busy day is sure to be followed by another one equally busy, knows how invaluable is the Easy Writing Royal Typewriter which enables her to "End the day with a smile," and begin a new one with a cheerful "Good Morning!"



TYPEWRITERS

Royal Typewriter Company, Inc., 316 Broadway, New York Branches and Agencies the World Over

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"You are A Marvelous Hostess!"

"DOU are a marvelous hostiss— but you were never more mar. velous than last night. I could have sworn that you had summoned to your drawing room the very atmosphere—the fragrance—of romance. And there was about you an elusive touch of mystery that was fascinating."

FROM HER DIARY:

70)ELL-the party was a success. There was really a thrill about it. I wonder if they knew bow much the temple incense belped."

TT is an old, old secret, that the charm of women and the pleasure of festivals are the more irresistible when they are given a setting suffused with the glamor of romance. Vantine's Temple Incense breathes this delightful, faintly fragrant atmosphere into any room. Six subtle odors, at all drug and department stores.

What mystery will incense give to you? Send 10 cents for sample of six fragrances.

A. A. VANTINE & CO., Inc. NEW YORK 71 FIFTH AVENUE (Dept. 9)



Cover Girl

THIS month's cover girl comes from Wisconsin. She considers herself the Bohemian type; is five feet in height, has blue-gray eyes, light brown-almost bronze-hair, and a fair complexion.

A GNES MAINE was born in Milladore, Wisconsin, June 7, 1908. She received her education in the public schools of that section. Her present home is ELCHO, Wisconsin. I think we can be proud of her as a SMART SET girl, don't you? I'm wondering just what she intends to do with her thousanddollar check.

The popularity of the SMART SET girl idea has grown so big that we have been forced to stop asking for pictures until the judges catch up with the five thousand still to be examined.

MOTION picture directors have been coming to SMART SET office to seek new faces for the films. This has delayed the return of some pictures—but the spirit of co-operation and patience which has been shown by the girls is really wonderful and gives us new faith in our readers.

THE EDITOR

\$5,000 for Your Stories

(Continued from page 73)

noticed the illustrations reprinted with this announcement? They have all been used with SMART SET stories. Don't they help you to know just what we want in the way of stories from life? Read this issue carefully. It will help

Read this issue carefully. It will help you. Notice the variety of subjects and the simplicity of style in our stories. And then talk over the subject with your family and friends. Make a game of it. The requirements are very simple. We want stories of life written in the first person style. The length should be

not less than four thousand nor more than seven thousand words.

Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced. Use only one side of the If typewriter is not available, use ink and be careful to write so that the

story is easy to read. Address them in care of the Contest Editor.

The Contest will close February 15th, 1926. Prize will be announced in the June, 1926, issue when the first prize story will be published.

The editors will be the judges. We want everyone who is interested in SMART SET to write a story, feeling confident that we are not seeking professional

This is the first of a series of surprises we have in store for the coming year. Every month you will find something new to stimulate your interest in SMART SET. It's a game of a sort. I'm always trying to find something you haven't thought of so that you can try your hand at a new idea!—THE EDITOR.





The correct way to apply rouge is very important. Nature's own color appears in the form of a >, pointing toward the nose. Apply as shown by the dia-Apply as shown by the diagram sketch, leaving a white space about the size of a silver quarter (or shilling) in front of the ear. Blend softly over cheeks with puff. Never apply in a hard, round, artificial spot. For waterproof, lasting effect, rouge should be applied before powdering.

les, this Rouge is flattering/ AND SO, SHE GREETS THE WORLD WITH A SMILE,

CONFIDENT, SERENE, ADORABLE!

HE lovely glow of PRINCESS PAT Rouge appears to lie below the skin, not on it. Apply it to your own cheek and see for yourself what a fine, youthful blush it brings. Then you'll "Yes, indeed, this Rouge is flattering.

Smart, new, modish! And one application lasts all evening. It is not affected by perspiration

To day the best looking woman knows how to use PRINCESS PAT Rouge. With her its use is an art. On the dressing table of this clever woman you will find two or three tints of "Princess Pat." She blooms in Princess Pat Rouge VIVID when she wears that gorgeous party gown and a bright flush is appropriate. Princess Pat Medium Rouge

is her choice when a soft pastel shade suits her mood and her gown. And when a natural orange tint is just the right shade, she rejoices in Princess Pat English Tint, which won such instant favor with stylish women everywhere,

Then, confident, sparkling, always in poise, she graces every company, expressing in person and attire the last word in correct color harmony.

You can enjoy the same advantage. Princess Pat Rouge is sold at every department or drug store. Should your dealer be temporarily out, we will gladly send you a week's supply, free, on request.

We want you to prove to your own satisfaction how this unique rouge brings out your Beauty as no rouge ever did before.





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Chicago, U.S.A.

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As a final touch to your beauty it is essential that the color harmony between lips and cheeks should be exact. With English Tint or Medium Rouge use Princess Pat "Natural" Lipstick; with Vivid Rouge use Princess Pat "Vivid" Lipstick. Keeps the lips soft and pliant—prevents dryness or chap.

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PRINCESS PAT, LTD., Dept. 2112 2709 So. Wells St., Chicago, Ill.

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Please send me, free of cost, a sample of Princess Pat Rouge, as checked.

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☐ English Tint

Address



"It Makes My Face Feel So Good!"

You'll say so, too, after you try Boncilla Clasmic Beautifier.

Just spread on this blue-gray magic balm-then relax and rest.

In twenty minutes-tired nerves are soothed, taut muscles relax, and lines that might become wrinkles are smoothed away.



Makes the skin soft and smooth. It is nates pimples and blackheads, dispels sallowness, enlarged pores and excess oil. Use Boncilla Beautifier twice a week. For the daily toilette: Boncilla Cold and Vanishing Creams and Boncilla creamed Face Powder.

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Each of these products may be purchased separately. The Pack O' Beauty contains introductory sizes of all four items at 50c. For greatest convenience and economy, ask for Ideal Set No. 37, containing full sized packages of all four—and a FREE cake of Boncilla Beauty Soap. At all toilet counters the state of the If you live in Canada send to 590 King St., Toronto 2.

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Mosgrin's Dog

[Continued from page 77]

shop, announcing his presence with a

"Hullo!" greeted Mosgrin, without great affability, for he had small use for the old man. "Come after more locks and bolts to put about your gold and silver?

Ladwell lifted a warning finger, glancing sharply about.
"No one around!" said Mosgrin, with

open contempt. "Well, what is it you want of me this time?"

"Some scoundrel broke in last night,

The deuce you say!"
'And I—I shot him, Mosgrin!" A touch of triumph in this. "What? Dead?"

"What? Dead?"
"No. Wish I had. He ran."
"You hit him?"

"Don't know. Fancied I did!"

"The deuce you say! How did he get

OLD Ladwell wiped his brow with his habitual red handkerchief, which reduced washings to a minimum.

"That's the point! I've gone over every inch. Windows all bolted and barred. Only the door, front door—that's got no bolt you know, since Martin ruined it, getting in one night when I'd set it by winted the distribution being the first beautiful to the set of the mistake, thinking him in, and he couldn't make me hear.

"The lock was on?"

"I made sure it was . . . Look here, Mosgrin, d'ye suppose the fellow had a Old Ladwell wiped his brow again, rops standing out. "That young the drops standing out. "That young scamp, Martin," he breathed suddenly, "he's as careless of keys as a servant with lutter. D'ye suppose he's lost one someand someone's got it-knowing s. Treate "Hunt lock it fitted?"
"Humph!" said Mosgrin, considering

the thing.
"You'll come up," cried Ladwell excitedly. "You'll come up this very day and change that lock, Mosgrin, and fix the bolt

while you're at it!"
"Tomorrow," returned Mosgrin, scratching his head. "Busy all day today!"

And leave me-

"With all that gold in your mattress alone another night—heh?"
"Hush!"

"No one round to hear!"
"I thought I heard something," said

Ladwell nervously.
"Your nerves!" retorted Mosgrin, unsympathetically. "Say, look here—I have -something a good sight better than any k. I'll lend you the dog!" lock. I'll le. "W-what?

"The dog!"

A sudden light broke over old Ladwell's

"By gad, Mosgrin! . . . You'll tie him up safely, though, on the veranda On the veranda!"

"Veranda nothing! What if anyone should force the way in the back, You never know. The dog would be helpless to get at him. No, no, we'll put him in

"Not if I know it—"
"On a chain." said

"On a chain," said Mosgrin, "long enough so he can guard the stairs. Your is anyone getting up there. only danger is anyone You'd be helpless!" Old Ladwell shivered.

"Ugh! But me live in the same house overnight with that brute?"
"You'll stay put on the upper that, that's

all. And sleep like a babe. You sleep pretty well usually?"

"Yes, yes, like a log when Martin's home with me!"

"Are you sure the chain is strong"
"I'll vouch for that!"

Mosgrin's dog gave a sudden growl. "What's that?"

"Someone coming, that's all!"

"I thought I saw a face at that back window!" cried old Ladwell. "A face all skin and bones!"

"You're seeing things!... By ga perhaps you're right! Steady there, boy stop it! Stop that noise!"

They hurried out into the sunlight Mosgrin's dog was tugging at his chair, barking vociferously. A gaunt, shambling ligure was just disappearing over the hedge, turning but once to show a scarred, angry face, and shake a fist at the howling

The two men stared.

"You'll take the dog?" said Mosgrin grimly. "I'll bring him up while it's still daylight!"

Jonathan Ladwell nodded, shuddering a little. He put his hand in his pocket, and ietched out a weapon.

'And you can load that for me, Mos-

in. I'm taking no chances either way!" Mosgrin regarded the weapon curiously. Then he nodded, taking it and examining it expertly. "I'll bring it up when I come. I'm out of ammunition. You're safe enough by daylight?"

Ladwell nodded.

"Smith's men are working in the fields next my place. They're keeping a look out for me. Good trustworthy fellows, all

of 'em."
"Well, I'll fetch it up, and load it for Not that you'll you, when I bring the dog. Not that you'll need it, Ladwell!" He grinned savagely. There'll be not enough left of any intruder to put a bullet in time the dog gets through with him. These durned tramps are the curse of the district. It'd be an example for one to get his good and plenty!'

"You could bring the new lock, too!"
Mosgrin smiled. "Later," he said, wink
g. "Let the dog have his chance, Lad-

well!"

They nodded at each other, understand ingly, and Jonathan Ladwell took his departure into the sunlit morning.

We youngsters saw him go by on his homeward way, his mouth still not entirely free from a malicious grin, as we played in the schoolyard at the time of the morning recess.

VERY well," said Miss Bowles, catching me mooning during lessons, and not understanding how much old Bag-o'-Rones was in my young mind. "You'll Bones was in my young mind. "Y stay and make up time after school!" Fate plays funny tricks that

Ordinarily I was lucky in my escapades: today I was caught. Ordinarily there would be others to share the after-school hour of confinement; today it was solitary. I sat working over my "examples," under the eye of Miss Bowles, "the terrible the eye of Miss Bowles, "the terrible spinster," with an eerie sense that the last voices from the schoolyard had vanished: that the sunlight was dimming under a sea of grey cloud from the west; that Miss Bowles' direction was the opposite of mine, and that at the schoolhouse door we would part company. For once I craved her attendance; I know I even suggested, timidly, and with the utmost solicitation, that my mother had been hoping she would call around for a visit soon, and that I fancied she would be at home this afternoon. Miss Bowles refused to take the hint. "Perhaps next week!" she said.

To my affrighted imagination a sense of premature night hung over the country-

[Turn to page 86]

Well, the dog is safer still."

How I Earn Money at Home

And In This Way Make Up For George's Shrinking Salary

Every Wife or Self-Supporting Girl Can Use Extra Money. Many Are Now Making It Themselves—Right at Home—How Auto Knitting Pays Three Ways

By MARY WHITMAN

Y dear, you should have seen her at church this morning. She looked positively 'dowdy.' It's a shame! Mary used to be such a well dressed girl-until she married that bank clerk. I should think he'd feel—'
"Sh-h-h! She's on this car.
Over behind you. She might

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But I had heard—and my tace flushed red with resentment and shame. It was true—I did look "dowdy"—and I knew it.

I got off the street car at the next corner and walked the remaining blocks to my home - and George. My cup of bit-terness had spilled over, and I needed a few minutes to choke back my tears that wanted to run down my burning cheeks.

I didn't want to make George feel worse than he did already about our money situa-tion. My husband is one of the "white than he did already about our money tion. My husband is one of the "white collar men" whose salaries haven't kept pace collar men" whose salaries faven't kept pace to salaries faven't kept pace. with the mounting cost of living. I had sometimes hinted to George that I would be glad to take my old position again, but he had always vetoed the idea strenuously

But the bitter experience of this Sunday morning was too much. I resolved as I walked home I was going to find a way to make extra money for clothes.

When I got home I was prepared to be cheerful as usual, but George was comfortably smoking and absorbed in his Sunday paper, and his contentment somehow irritated me terribly. To make matters worse he held up the magazine-picture section of the paper as I came into the room, and re-marked that he had never seen the girls wear "such good-looking duds as they do this year.'

I lost my temper, snatched the paper from him and cried, "If you like to see nice clothes so much, why don't you buy your wife some of them?"

Then I rushed to my room, still carrying the magazine section of the paper, shut the door, and threw myself across the bed for

a good cry. George came and knocked and spoke to me, but I wouldn't let him in.

After a while I sat up, and idly began to turn the pages of the paper I had taken away from George. All of a sudden I sat up straighter and gasped. A woman was looking out of the page at me, holding a bank check in her hand, and across the top of the page were the words, "How I Make Money—Right at Home—Auto Knitting Pays Three Ways."

That night I mailed the coupon from that advertisement of The Auto Knitter Hosiery

To make my story short, I found their prospectus so convincing and reasonable that I sent for and received the wonderful little machine, the Auto Knitter.



"It helped us over the hard spots by turning spare hours into extra dollars"

While George was at the bank, I used it every minute I could spare from my housework. At the end of a month I sent my first shipment of soft, warm, well-knit wool socks to the company's hosiery department. By return mail came a check in payment.

Well, I kept on knitting socks—but after a little while not many of them went to the company, for when I let my friend Gracia into my secret and showed her the socks, she immediately exclaimed: "I know where we can sell them right here in town and no-body need even know who made them!" It worked out fine. I sold them and soon had calls for more. I found I could make more calls for more. money selling them in this way than I could sending my standard socks to the company.

Then one day, as we were ready to go out, I presented myself before George in a pretty, new accordion-pleated frock which I had seen advertised in Park & Taylor's sale and a fancy little sweater I had made up myself with the aid of the Auto Knitter.

His mouth opened wide and he just stared at me in admiration. Finally, he managed to say: "Where did you get them, Mary?"

"I earned them myself," I replied brightly, not just sure how he would take the

"The sweater, too?" he inquired, and I knew he was thinking what an extravagant lot such a sweater must have cost.

"Well, the sweater—" I answered, "the sweater I really made myself!"

"But, Mary, I didn't know you could knit "I couldn't by hand, George," I replied, "but I learned to do it another way."

George looked for a moment as if I had said I had stolen my new things. But then I made him sit down and listen to my story.

Then I took the light, portable Auto Knitter out of the closet and showed George

how it worked. I had had enough practice by that time, so that I made a sock so quickly that George's eyes al-

most dropped out of his head.
"And you say the Company's hosiery department will buy the socks from you?" he

"Yes," I replied, "they will take my entire surplus of standard socks at a guaranteed price, but the best of it is that I can sell my work right here at home and make even more than by sending it to the com-pany, to say nothing of the money I can save by making our own knitted wear just as I made this sweater."

George was certainly aston-ished, said he had no objection to my continuing the work. In fact, he was secretly proud. So I kept right on making

of my ability. So I kept right on making clever little knitted articles for my daughter, socks for George and knitted -novelties for home sale. When spring and summer came I took up the knitting of fancy, sport and golf stockings, so that I really had very little knitting to sell to the company, although they helped me in every way, even sending me a booklet telling how to build up my own home knitting business.

Now, I can have the pretty things I want for myself, for Helen and for the house—and I don't have to feel "guilty" when I buy them, because I am not obliged to touch a cent of what I call "the family money" the money that George makes.

Whenever I hear a woman complaining about the high cost of living and clothes, I always try to tell her how the Auto Knitter will help her to make and save money at home in spare time.

No matter where you live, I feel sure that you want to know all about the Auto Knitter that has meant so much to us. By all means write to The Auto Knitter Hosiery Company at once and find out about this home industry waiting for you. Find out what others have done with the aid of the Auto Knitter and what it offers you. Send your name and address on the coupon below—no obligation of any sort. The Auto Knitter Hosiery Company, Inc., Dept. 21512, 630 Genesee Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Auto Knitter Hosiery Co., Inc. Dept. 21512, 630 Genesee St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Send me full particulars about Making Money and Saving Money at Home with the Auto Knitter telling How Auto Knitting Pays Three Ways. I enclose 2 cents postage to cover cost of mailing, etc. It is understood that this does not obligate me in any way.

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Street and Number	
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Either Solid or Liquid in Black Brown-75c at all toilet goods counte

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Mosgrin's Dog

[Continued from page 84]

side as I set out for home ... "And don't fail me—or—"... Over and over that raced in my mind. And I had failed him; raced in my mind. And I had failed him; had run away from him rather than to him with the matches. The unspoken threat was a sword over my spirits. I told myself, repetitiously, that he was just a common tramp, that he had doubtless quit the district long before this. And then I remembered the whisper that had

passed around at noon:
"Old Ladwell's was broken into last night. Old Ladwell shot at the fellow, but he got away. They think it's a tramp,

I shivered.

JUST around the bend now, and along the straight stretch of road, lay the smithy. It was a comfort rather than the usual terror to think of Mosgrin's dog on guard there. I hurried.
"Not so quick there, young master!"
Old Bag-o'-Bones was grinning at me maliciously from a parting in the hedge.

I glanced instinctively up and down the road. The figure of Miss Bowles was a speck on the far hill, going up in the direction of Jonathan Ladwell's lonely habitation and the more settled district beyond. Before me the road was empty. I think I should have taken to my heels forthwith, but for a nightmare sense of paralysis that held me until it was physically confirmed by his claw-like hand upon

my shoulder.
"So you failed old Bag-o'-Bones with his matches, hey? I've a mind to-tweaked my ear painfully. "I'm a l tweaked my ear painfully. "I'm a bad 'un to meddle with, young master!"

His hold tightened. I uttered a cry of

pain.
"Promise not to fail me again—will ye?"

I was stupefied with fear. "Promise, on yer soul and body, by the One who made 'em, world without end?"
"Y-yes!" I was forced to it at last. He

released my ear.
"Come, that's better!" I commenced to edge off.

"I'll go and fetch the matches now!"
"Not so quick, young master!" he said again. "It's not matches old Bag-o'-Bones fancies now. I want you to fetch me a pound of raw meat—steak'll do. Understand?" He took my ear speculatively

again.

"I'll be fair and square with you. Here's some money, and hard enough to get, too, these days. Nice, temptin', juicy steak—understand? And tell no one, you

won't, will ye? "N-no, sir!"

"N-no. str!

"And bring it here to me after dark—
understand? After dark. I'm not one
for publicity, I'm not!"

"I—I can't—" I began.

"You what?" He reached for my ear

again.
"I'll bring it!"

"That's better! After dark, mind you. Right hereabouts. And tell no one. Mark ye, old Bag-o'-Bones has second sight; he'll know quick as a wink if ye tell anyone. And if you fail me again I'll—I'll throw you to Mosgrin's dog some night at dead of night, so help me, I will!... Now, off with you, and walk—don't run as if ye'd seen a ghost!"

I obeyed. Once around the bend my legs

threatened to run away with me; but being uneasily uncertain about that business second sight, I desisted. As I passed the smithy, I noticed that Mosgrin was unchaining his dog, that is, he was removing the link of chain that ordinarily was stoutly stapled to the post by the kennel. At the time I was too frightened at and concerned with my own affairs to wonder

Why did I not tell my parents? Was it a sense of a promise given—under extortion? Or my fear of his second sight, of which he boasted? I leave it to anyone, who has been a boy, and can

call to mind old days.

To buy the steak—feeling like a criminal when Mosher, the butcher, said: "There, that's the cut your mother likes, sonny;" to evade suspicion at the house, and to escape on some pretext into the hideous darkness; to find old Bag-o'-Bones and as quickly as might be fulfill my trust these were my concerns. Better the torture of the exacting present than the threat of future vengeance, suspended unfulfilled!

Mosgrin's dog! Suppose - horrid thought-suppose the blacksmith had been undoing the chain so that the dog might rove tonight, for it was common knowledge now, that whisper that had set us shuddering a little and thrilling a little in the broad light of noon: "Old Ladwell's was broken into last night! Old Ladwell shot at the fellow, but he got away. They think it's a tramp, maybe!"

I kept to the far side of the road, preferring the shadows of the bushes to the dog . . . and as I passed, turning a quick nervous glance across and behind, I sawin a brighter patch of moonlight—the empty kennel, and no sign at all of Mosgrin's

This menace past, and the wonder of it occupying me, I made my way with a certain sense of relief, almost forgetting the terror beyond, until a hissing whisper quivered at me from the roadside bushes beyond the turn.

Here you are, lad! Good lad!" And there was old Bag-o'-Bones, grinning at me in the moonlight. Somehow when I saw his grin, and heard his amiable greeting, my concern changed from personal fear of him to a more intangible one, not yet fully refined.

"You have the steak, young 'un?"
I gave it to him, declaring almost with avado: "He said it was good and

bravado: tender!"

Old Bag-o'-Bones grinned at me again, unpleasantly. "Young feller," he said solemnly, "this here is for other teeth than mine. It has work to do before Just stand by a moment, sonny. and keep a sharp watch out on the road, now it's moonlight!"

DID his bidding, though anxious enough to be away. From his ragged pocket he took what I thought to be a tobacco pouch, but which I saw contained a white powder of sorts: and so interested was I that I spied upon him rather than keeping strict guard upon the silver ribbon of the road. From another pocket, he produced a murderous looking knife, opened it, and set to work to slash the meat. Into the deep incisions thus made he rubbed the powder, chuckling and grunting over his

Glancing up, he noted my interested

gaze.
"Ho, ho, young man! Spyin' are ye?
... Come here, now—you'll know the whole matter, and keep a close mouth, or—" His fingers dallied with the open knife blade, red with the juice of the meat. "I'm a repitable citizen, I'd have you know!" he growled. "A right-livin" gent, as ever was, but the dorgs, they don't seem to twig it. I've a score to settle with some of 'em—and one with Mosgrin's darg! Look! I've been this way before, and that's his doing!"

He shifted his face in the moonlight, and the livid scar, extending repulsively rom chin to ear, showed plainly.

"Took me for a bone, I guess!" He was chuckling again now, but there was n evil malice in it. "And Mosgrin nughed, and said it served me right, omin' round at night, wakenin' honest tolk!" He spat and shook his head, rolling the steak in his hands to grind the rounder. the steak in his hands to grind the powder into it. "Well, you can't fool yer fate, I uppose. Wot's written's written! It's written, young master, that the dorgs'll yet old Bag-o'-Bones. My missus—never that the dorgs'll young fellow. ou marry, young fellow—my missus, she lew into a tantrum one day. 'Get out o' here, and go to the dorgs yer own way, he says. 'May the dorgs eat ye,' she says; may the dorgs tear ye bone from bone!" He shook his head, pleased, I fancy, with my shuddering interest. "A fine 'oman, my shuddering interest. she was, in her way, and that powerful in spells! Put a spell on ye, she could, quicker'n wink. That was the Romany in her . . . Well, you can't fool fate, but you can postpone it, maybe. And the dorgs as are nasty to old Bag-o'-Bones'll pay for it as long as he has breath of life." He

stopped abruptly, caught my shoulder, said urgently: "You know Ladwell's, boy?"

The noon whisperings rang now like shoutings in my ears: "Old Ladwell's was broken into last night. Old Ladwell shot at the fellow, but he got away. They think it's a tramp, likely!"

His hand tightened.

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'I see you do. Well, so do I, by the road. I slept in his outhouse one night, though he didn't know it, the old crab, for he turned me away from the door with nothing! Quick march, now, and—through

the fields! . . . Ah, come in here with ye!"

We were through the hedge on the farther side, and he drew me down, whispering savagely that his himself in the sound of steady footfalls. A figure loomed up, quite clearly, for the moon-brighter than ever. He passed ing savagely that his knife would be in light was brighter than ever. He passed us. He was heading up toward the school-house, and so away from The Corners.

THAT'S a tough-lookin' guy," grinned Bag-o'-Bones. "Well enough for respectable folks like us to keep to the fields! Lead on there, and hurry a bit, or yer father'll be skinnin' yer hide for keeping late hours!" His grip tightened on me again. "You understand, kid, not a word about me—whatever he does to you. Not a word—or I'll have my own ways of gettin' you yet!"

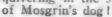
It was a short cut across the fields.

Ladwell's lay just ahead now, bathed in the moonlight. Lights still showed in the

upper windows.
"Righto, kid! Now cut and run! And good luck to ye from old Bag-o'-Bonesif you keep mum. Mind that! And if I ever run across my missus again, I'll have

her say a good spell for ye!"
I needed no second bidding. Fear kept pace with me. And when at last I lay, trembling, on my own bed, the moonlight palely streaming through the window, my doze was haunted by fearful forms . . . old miser Ladwell, his finger quivering on the trigger of an enormous pistol, defending huge and uncountable piles of gold . . . old Bag-o'-Bones, his cheek not scarred, but torn open, and slashed like the steak under the incisions of his murderous knife, his own hands red with blood . . . and Mosgrin's dog.

unchained, leaping . . . and Mosgrin's dog. unchained, leaping . . . In time I quieted into sleep. And then, suddenly, I was wide awake, sitting up, cold with fear. Intensely still, everything near at hand: the quiet house, the sleeping fields. But across those fields, suitaring in the citet night the heavilier. quivering in the silent night, the howling







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Vame

Across those fields, in the lonely Lad well house, old Jonathan Ladwell himself was not sleeping over well. His fear was not, tonight, for the treasure hidden near him. His fear was of the great brute chained below, just at the bottom of the taircase. Since sunset he had not dared to descend. He was a prisoner in his own

At about sunset, Mosgrin had brought the beast, before whose wicked eyes, and slavering jaws, Ladwell had retreated Mosgrin laughed: "Well, he'll give you a comfortable night's sleep, anyhow. Nothing

ou-you brought the gun?"

"Here it is," said Mosgrin, and then: Don't shoot the dog by mistake, eh? Better leave everything to the dog!"

You've loaded it?"

"No. Here is the ammunition."
"Well, load it. I have small use for firearms—that way!"

Mosgrin, it seems, brought out his ammu nition then, started to load the weapon. then stopped and stared stupidly at the car-tridges. "Well, I'm dashed," he said. "I've brought the wrong size!"
"They won't fit?"

"Not by a deal. Well, you'll not need em, with the dog, Ladwell. Pity the throat of anyone who enters!"

Jonathan Ladwell shivered.
"Ugh. The throat, you say
Mosgrin smiled. "Straig

The throat, you say?"
n smiled. "Straight for the I've had some close shaves at the shop, with people coming round in the dead of night. These confounded tramps—there was one the dog got from chin to ear—near thing!"

"Huh! Well, tie him up well. Tie

him up well, Mosgrin!"

Mosgrin tied up the dog, inside the house, giving him three or four yards of

"There, he's safe! And you're safe! Say, he seems to know his old quarters

The two men stared at the dog settling down, comfortably at home already, head

on paws. "Well, I'm off," said Mosgrin.

ant dreams!"

'You h-haven't t-told the dog," cried

old Ladwell, knowing the custom well.
"Why, so I haven't," said the blacksmith. "Here, boy! On guard, boy—on
guard now! Let nobody pass!"

So Mosgrin was gone. And old Jonathan adwell was alone. He set heavy chairs Ladwell was alone. He set heavy chairs across the head of the stairs during the evening, and felt better for that. At eleven he retired, extinguishing the lights. He dozed uneasily at last.

WHEN he wakened it was at the sound of the dog barking. It continued so long, he summoned courage to approach the Perhaps the dog head of the stairs. recognized household authority, for desisted, save for rumblings and intermittant growlings. Ladwell returned to mittant growlings. bed. Presently he started up. Above the renewed barkings of the dog, was a sound as of breaking glass. Well, no one could

get in a barred window! And then
What was that?
The sound, as of a soft mass, falling with
a thud on the floor. As if it might almost be a body of flesh! Old Ladwell's skin prickled. He was reassured at last, for the dog's noise ceased. And then came a curious sound, a scratching, clawing sound, incessant, growing . . . the dog whining, whining horribly . . . more scratching, and yanking at the chain, a lower whining and silence!

Whatever the menace, it was gone, thought Ladwell. Presently his own univering body lay still in exhausted sleep. Not for long. What was that now?

key in the latch! Why did the brute no bark? Was it imagination that he hear bark? a loud scratching of claws, a clank o chain—but no barking? \ cold rush of air stirred even up here

takably a key in the latch of the door! A

He knew now that the front door mube open! A quick intuition seized him That sound before, that falling flesh meat! Someone poisoning the dog! And he had no gun-no gun now! He was to paralyzed to move.

But that scuffling sound -the scratching Why that? Why that?

It had stopped now, succeeded by a low He fancied a football.
The growling became uncertain growling. but it too ceased. more ugly-did he fancy a voice?--another step, then a sudden leap, a horrible cry sounds from which he closed his ter rified ears, stuffing the pillow tightly against them. These sounds, too ceased He listened again. Nothing but a curious snuffling sound, until there was launched into the silence of the night, a terrible, wailing outcry!

MOSGRIN'S dog was howling! And we who listened, and especially I. who shivered and shuddered in the failing moonlight in my attic bedroom, knew assuredly that there was some evil afoot.

Old Jonathan Ladwell's curiosity came more terrible than his fear. pivoted on the bed, letting his shanl:s over the side, until he felt the cold boards. He padded across the floor, tremblingly lit a lamp—for there was no thought of electricity in that house and that day-and carried it aloft to light his way.

Holding it above his head, he clutched the railing of the staircase, and let its gleams illumine the spectacle below.

At the foot of the stairs was Mosgrin's dog, whining now in a subdued, awesome way, beside an object horrible to look upon. This object Ladwell saw to be a tramp, or so he thought it, for the clothes were rough and ill-fitting.

He might have noticed the face then, but for the throat! The teeth of the dog sunk deeply, leaving the throat jagged and bleeding. From it Ladwell turned away, and so it was he saw a little distance off, and evidently just beyond reach of the dog, for the floor was torn with the marks of straining claws, a lump of raw beef

steak

Old Ladwell afterwards declared it was the curious thing that happened next that made him press his investigation. great dog, whining still in that subdued way, began to lick the face of the dead man!

And Ladwell, looking with horror upon saw in this dead tramp-Mosgrin, the

blacksmith.

Two facts only came out later, to throw light upon this odd affair. A boy who came two miles to school, turned up late next morning, reporting that he had been stopped by "a scarecrow looking tramp," who asked him if it was true that the dog belonging to "the blacksmith chap at The Corners" had been poisoned, and when the lad, frightened, stammered "No; someone tried, but the dog is alive"—for the news had traveled-then the man cursed and swore, and a curious long scar on face, from chin to ear, grew red and livid.

The other concerns a dapper little man who, on Saturday, drove into the smithy yard, and asked loudly for Mosgrin, and who, when he heard the blacksmith was dead, looked crestfallen, and then boldly declared that Mosgrin was much in his debt, and produced I. O. U.'s that had, so it was whispered, to do with gambling affairs, further stating that Mosgrin had promised payment without fail today.

As for myself, I kept a discreet silence -through the years until now.

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a new principle, to all parts of all hair.

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26 E.

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A remarkable offer

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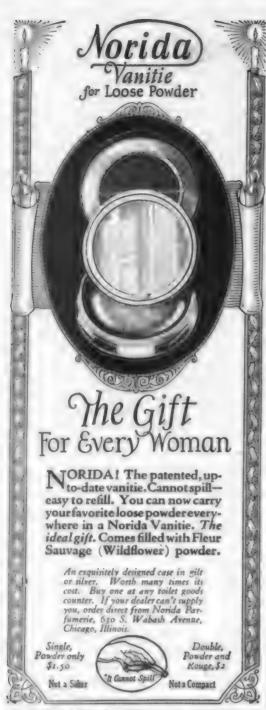
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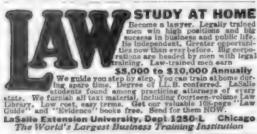
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When I Came To—!

[Continued from page 53]

floor! Someone-no it sounded like three or four people moving around heavily and pulling heavy articles back and forth.

In spite of the warm, heavy blankets a cold sweat broke out all over me. I shook Doris and awakened her. Together we listened breathlessly. The radiolite hands on the black face of my watch showed it was ten minutes of twelve.

"Do you suppose it's an army of big ats?" questioned Dot.

I said, "sounds more like ele phants to me.

We called softly to Louise, who was up in a second, tiptoeing her way into our room. Just as she reached the bed she stepped on one of my shoes. It turned over and Louise, who had been on her toes anyway, turned with it and fell with a crash to the floor.

WE ALL screamed in real terror, but before we could reach the door of the bedroom to close it, the most horrible looking man I ever recall seeing in movies or real life or even reading about, was standing there looking at us as though we were phenomenal specimens of some kind.

With an oath and a bound he was in the room and grabbed my arm. In spite of my frantic struggles to free myself and Louise's and Dot's hammering on him, he held me out in front of him, laughing and shouting coarsely. It wasn't a minute be-fore three more vicious looking ruffians like himself were there. Two of them were holding Dot and Louise in a like manner and all four were laughing boisterously and making vulgar remarks about 'little white angels dropped in their midst from heaven.'

Then the ugly brute holding me bent down to kiss me. I can still see his nasty black-bearded face, pig-like eyes, and loose thick lips so close to mine-and feel his filthy body as he held me close to him. That's all. Faintly I remember hearing a scream from both my chums.

When I came to, the girls were bending over me, rubbing my wrists and massaging my head. They told me that "Butch," the men called him, carried me down into the cellar through a trap door in the kitchen-floor and through which they themselves had been forced to follow.

In a few minutes I was fully conscious again and we began to take in our sur-roundings. All around were kegs, jugs, barrels, bags—it looked to us like a firstclass junk shop. Outside in the larger part of the cellar we could hear the men talking and swearing among themselves. In louder tones I recognized "Butch's" voice saying, 'Git rid of them before they're missedacthorities on our trail-biggest order yet -worth couple thousand easy-maybe more." Disconnected phrases. We didn't We didn't know what they were planning.

No one came near us the rest of the night. Around 5 A. M. on the following morning we heard the scuille of feet going in the opposite direction. The door of our hole (an old coal and wood bin) opened, and through half-closed eyes we could see the brutal face of "Butch" peering at us in the light of a lantern he carried.

Satisfied that we were sleeping or dead from fright-it didn't matter much to him either way-he drew back and locked the door after him. For a few minutes neither of us spoke, then Louise broke the silence by bursting into a song—"Where Do We Go From Here, Boys?"

In spite of our predicament we all laughed, then fell to planning some way of escape. It was evident we couldn't "rush" the crew. We were like three flies in their hands. We tried bucking against the door, but like all the doors in that old house. it was solid and held tight. A gruff command from outside told us to "shut up an l

stop snoopin' around."

We knew then we were real prisoner and under guard. About two hours late the door opened and our jailer came in with a pail of milk, three chunks of bread and a blanket. We thanked him sweetl and asked him if he would bring us bac ome lunch at noon. He said he would Then we tried to question him about ou: sudden capture. He grew surly and slammed out of the bin, locking the door after him. Well—at least we had some thing to eat and a blanket to wrap up in "Girls," I cried, "we'll be out of here at

noon. Let's have a drink on that one. Dot and Louise both said together, "Gone

"No, really," I said. "When Johnnie comes marching in this noon, we'll hop on him and tie him up in the blanket. We're

three to one. It will be easy."

Like three cats we waited for Mouse to make his appearance. L waited beside the door and Dot and I crouched in the corner with the blanket. ready to leap at the given signal from our friend. We waited until we heard the key turning in the lock outside, then ducked. Enter Johnnie.

Crash! Bang! A muffled oath, and down went the man, another pail of milk, Louise, Dot, and myself—all in a heap. In a few minutes he was rolled in the blanket and tied with a heavy rope we

found among the debris.

Base ingratitude-yes-but nevertheless necessary. We ran to our machine and drove to the village at breakneck speed We ran to our machine and still in our pajamas and it broad daylight. However, propriety was the last thought in our minds. Through the main street in our minds. Through the main street we raced and up to the court-house and asked for the sheriff's office. A violent honking of the horn brought the sheriff and several other people out to the car.

In a few minutes we related our experience. "Wal, by cracky!" drowled the sheriff, "thar's whar Butch Sims and his drowled the ence. gang of moonshiners are working. have them bottled and bonded tonight, young ladies. He has escaped us for months, but we knew he was operating some stills somewhar around here."

DISPATCH to Dad brought him and A Mr. Preston by fast train before dark. That night, Mr. Hepson—the sheriff—with his posse, Daddy, Mr. Preston and we three girls drove out to the farm and hid ourselves in different parts of the house.

My father explained that my grandfather had had a tunnel built from the cellar of the house to the barn, that he might use it in winter when the snow blocked the outside passages. Through this tunnel the side passages. Through this tunnel the law-breakers had gained entrance from the harn to the house.

Around eleven o'clock we heard the footsteps of the approaching men. I nudged Dad as I heard "Butch" call loudly to "Jake," who had evidently wormed his way out of the ropes.

At a signal from Mr. Hepson the posse. all armed, went down into the cellar and quickly surrounded the surprised boot-leggers. "Butch" fought snarlingly to reach the door to the tunnel, but before he had gone three feet, two of the sheriff's men pinned him to the floor and handcuffed him. The others surrendered without a fight. As the last man filed out of the house and Dad locked the door, I looked at my watch and once more it was close to "midnight."

Possibility!

[Continued from page 80]

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My troubles seemed to be over. creation. My problems were all of such a nature that it was a pleasure to solve them. Should I put pink or blue ribbon on this little dress? How much extra would it cost when baby came? What surprise dish could I have for Eugene's dinner? Yes, that's what my problems were like.

Life was heavenly! It was one morning toward the latter part of June when Eugene left early for farm a short distance from a village about thirty miles away, where he had some work to do. He disliked out-of-town work, but for some reason or other, business was dull for him, and he had to take what he could get. It meant an all day job, and, as I hustled around to put up a lunch for him, I remember him saying: "Now, darling, don't wait up for me tonight. Mr. Allen and Jim Curby are going to give me a lift in their truck, but they'll be coming back before through, so,-well, you know that means waiting for the early morning train. Now, please don't wait up, Mary, because you know, dear, you want to keep especially strong—now," and the look of tenderness in his eyes, as he bent down to kiss me, I shall never-no, never-forget.

ALL through the day I busied myself with my household tasks, and toward evening, I began to anticipate Eugene's re-Eight o'clock-nine-ten-elevencame and went. Evidently, he had missed eatching a ride back in the truck, and would not be in till the train came at 1:55. So—following his instructions—I went to bed, but not to sleep. Whether it was because it happened to be the first time since our marriage that Eugene had been away so long, or, whether it was the somewhat critical condition I was in, I know not. But somehow, sleep did not come to me, and I lay there restless and nervous. Then and I lay there restless and nervous. after what seemed an eternity of time, I heard the 1:55 pull in. A few minutes later I heard it pull out. I lay there waiting-listening eagerly for a footstep on the walk. Five minutes passed, ten-thirty-still no Eugene! I didn't know what to think. I got up, threw a kimono around me, and nervously groped for the light. The clock said 2:45. I wasn't dreaming or imagining. The train had come—and gone—long ago. It was evident that light and not been on it. I put out the light, and sat down in the darkness beside the window, as if I thought that by peering into the darkness outside I could find some answer to my questions. Every possible thing that might have happened ran through my brain, but always I came back to this one fact—If Eugene, for some reason, had been unable to come, he would not have failed to let me know. Never! Then what could be the I knew that. reason?

I can't tell the thoughts that went through my mind. I can't explain nor even attempt to explain what a night that was. It may sound trivial to you, but I knew, in my heart of hearts—I felt—that something was wrong—and I suffered agonies. When dawn came I was nearly agonies. When dawn came I was nearly exhausted. I still sat in the chair by the window, my hands clenched, my brain nearly benumbed. The first rays of light brought me back to my senses. Surely I was foolish to work myself up so. As soon as the people were up, downstairs, (we used their telephone) I would go down and call up Wilson's. That's where he had spent the day working, and of course they would know all about him. Accordingly, I dressed, and, as soon as I heard the slightest stirring downstairs, I went down slightest stirring downstairs, I went down



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and put in a call for B. J. Wilson, thirtytwo miles away. As I took down the re-ceiver in answer to my call, my hand shook so violently that I could scarcely hold it. I tried to control myself, but when I said "Hello," my voice sounded shake. It was Mrs. Wilson that answered. "Hello, hello," I repeated, "is this Mrs.

Wilson?

"Well, this is Mrs. Eugene Carter, the paper-hanger's wife. I was wondering when Mr. Carter left your place yester-

day?"Left?-"Lest?—Why, he's never been here. He promised to come yesterday but he never showed up. I thought—

I heard no more. I fell in a dead faint upon the floor.

To MAKE a long story short, it long before the news of my husband's O MAKE a long story short, it was not disappearance was all over town. Mr. Allen and Jim Curby were the last ones known to have seen him. They reported that they had given him a ride to Salten, had left him in a poolroom buying cigar-ettes before starting out to Wilson's, had quickly dispatched with their own business, and had returned to Laska without further knowledge of Eugene.

I was confined to bed with sheer exhaustion, and had little attention except from Saunders, the woman downstairs. didn't know which way to turn nor what to think. Every hour or so, Mrs. Saunders would run up with some bit of news. I was utterly dazed and overcome. For three days I lay there, scarcely eating (although Mrs. Saunders, poer soul, tried to tempt me with good things)—scarcely talking nor even thinking.

During this time, my husband had been traced no further than the poolroom in Salten, where he had stopped. And what was most astonishing, his tool kit was found at that very place. No further trace could be found, and, to tell the truth, the search became less and less thorough. The enthusiasm and interest was greatly diminished. I saw this when I finally rallied from my stupor on the fourth day.

All was not being done that might be.

readily saw the reason.

the search. People were not particularly interested in the affairs of what they called "nobodys." Why, people were I had no influential friends to carry on "nobodys." Why, people were even set-tling back in their old ruts, and easing their consciences with the idea—"Oh, well, it's so obvious that he ran away. He's so poor, and all. Of course, it's too bad for the girl, but, then, she never did amount to much. And-

My spirit was roused at last! I would show them that their rumor was wrong. I would prove to them that Eugene loved me, and wouldn't-couldn't-leave me in such a predicament. He had met with foul play and I was sure of it. I was determined to demand a thorough search. Why-it was only fair! The thing must be investigated. Accordingly, I dressed and went down to the county attorney's office to plead for a search. I told him all the circumstances. How Eugene had hoped and planned for the baby. How happy we had been, and how I needed the

help of the county.
"Why, sir," I wept, "how can anyone imagine that he ran away of his own acimagine that he ran away of his own accord? How—why—what in heaven's name would be his object? Surely, anyone would know that he would take his good clothes and some money if he planned on going. But sir, he didn't—he didn't! All is left behind. I tell you he has met with foul play. I know it! I know it!"

Thus I went on, bringing my argument from the bettom of my heart. And when

from the bottom of my heart. And when had finished, and raised a tear-stained face to hear what he had to say, that

honorable man, one of the most influential in town, folded his arms in a most calm and businesslike manner, and said: "My dear girl, so far as I can see, everything has been done—that is, everything within reason. I cannot put the county to unnecessary expense. If, however, I see anything that I think should be done in your case, I shall put my influence behind it. Until then, I see nothing to do but await his return, for, you know, he may come back." And I was ushered out of his office, almost before fully comprehending his words. He couldn't mean that noone would help me. He couldn't mean I was left upon my own resources! And the baby-oh, God-

I can't tell you what I went through for the next week or so. My life was one muddled heap of anticipation of Eugene's return, hours of waiting and watching, the almost dread of approaching motherhood, and-bills. Eugene and I had been buying our furniture on the installment plan. At his disappearance, our creditors became frightened, and, before a week was up, all our savings and belongings were gone.

I couldn't have lived through this time I don't believe, if it hadn't been for Mrs. Saunders. She was wonderful to me, but, poor woman, she was too much in poverty herself to keep me long, and I knew it was up to me to get something to do. It finally turned out that Mrs. Saunders got me work on the farm of one of her friends. I sha'n't go into detail about this period of my life. Sufficient to say, I actually labored, and in my condition, everything was doubly hard. Out of my carnings during those months, I was able to pay Mrs. Saunders a small amount that enabled her to keep me during the time of

my confinement.

That was all ten years ago—ten long years. I now have a fairly good position in an office—at least I carn enough to keep Eugene and myself existing—and that's about all. Never in all this time have I doubted that my husband is dead. I knew long ago, that, should he be alive, he would have got word to me sometime-in some

-during ten years. Now-to come to my problem-I have, of late, met a man, somewhat older than myself, who cares a great deal for me. I too am very fond of him, and my boy has given to him all the boyish admiration and love that rightfully belongs to his father. This man has asked me to marry him. He has offered me a comfortable home, and, most of all, education and advancement for my boy. I know, although I do not love him as I loved Eugene, that I could be happy with him. I am still a young woman, and I do long for a home.

NOW looms up the question of my re-ligion, which has been so instilled in The law of our church says that there shall be no divorce among its people. And, while I am positive that Eugene is not alive, still it is true that I cannot prove it. Hence, to marry again I must first be divorced. Remarriage, happiness, opportunity, and comfort?-or-faith, and all that my very soul is built upon? Which? Oh, why-why must it mean the choosing between my dearly beloved church and a home?

I've poured out my story to you. My problem-my problem! Have I foresight and understanding enough to solve it? fear not.

This is a case in which I would feel perfectly justified in sending the letters of readers to the writer after removing names. I think that her husband would be legally dead after ten years. Don't you?-THE EDITOR



What folly to endure coarse pores

WHEN IT'S SO EASY TO REFINE THEM

This delightful "Twin Cream" Treatment brings you the smooth, fine-textured skin that everyone loves

OU hear a lot about coarse pores these days. Women everywhere are beginning to realize that there can be no true beauty without a satiny, fine-textured skin. Yet how strange it is that so many women accept coarse pores as a condition "peculiar to their skin"—and do little or nothing to refine them!

And stranger still — that so many women, under the guise of "beauty methods," are constantly doing the very things that enlarge and distend their pores all the more!

The pity of it is that these women are often the ones who try to give their complexions the best attention. They cleanse and nourish their skins with splendid preparations-then undo all the good by failing to take that most important final step—the closing of the pores. It isn't hard to see what happens then. Milady powders over the open pores — and in-stead of benefiting her skin, she merely clogs it. Dust and germs, too, have a good chance to enter the tiny openings.

Cleanse and nourish your skin frequently - but always close the pores afterwards

Without a doubt your skin needs frequent cleansing and nourishing. Indeed, this is the keynote of the Princess Pat "Twin Cream" Treatment. You'll realize this more fully when you take the first step-the application of the skin food cream. And what a stimulating and revitalizing touch it is!

It is almost incredible the way the complex-

ion reacts to this cream. You can just feel the skin growing softer and more velvety as you apply it - and you can almost see it banish wrinkles, sagging chins, blackheads and other blemishes. But the most delightful sensation of all comes with the final step in the famous "Twin Cream" beauty treatment — when you close the porcs with Princess Pat Ice Astringent.

This cool, fresh, snowy cream is just what the name implies - a delightful astringent that contracts the porcs as ice would, but without the shock and inconvenience. Under its gentle action the pores close to normal invisibility and instantly your face is glowing with an invigorating tingle. In a few seconds you wipe the Twin Creams away and then apply your powder.

Now that you have used a complete treatment, what a difference there is! Instead of forcing the minute powder particles into the open pores and distending them all the more, you are merely applying the powder to the surface of your skin. Your powder clings better, appears more natural; cannot clog the pores. And how much better your skin looks and feels! There need be no trace of tired lines and wrinkles; blackheads and pimples are gone, complexion is clear and satiny-smooth and your make-up stays on twice as long.

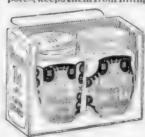
Start this "Twin Cream" method to-day

Don't let coarse pores keep you from your birthright of beauty. Begin today to win and keep the loveliness that only a fine-textured skin can give. Get the Princess Pat "Twin

Cream" Treatment at your favorite toilet goods counter and follow the simple directions. You'll be richly rewarded — and if you are not delighted with results, your dealer will cheerfully refund your money. If you prefer to try this treatment before purchasing, just mail the coupon and we will gladly send you free generous samples of these delightful "Twin Creams."

The Princess Pat Twin Cream Treatment

After thoroughly cleansing the skin, apply the first Twin, Princess Pat Cream—the skin food. Massage lightly until absorbed. This nourishes and rebuilds the tissues. Smooths out the tired lines. Don't wipe off this cream. Right over it apply Princess Pat Ice Astringent. You will feel a cool, delightful freshening, as of the porescontracting. Like an ice treatment, only pleasantly and instantly, Princess Pat Ice Astringent closes the pores, keeps them from filling and clogging during the long hours of exposure, protects and restores the fine texture of the skin. Next wipe the Twin Creams away. This firm, smooth and finegrained surface is the perfect foundation for make-up for day-time or evening.



time or evening.

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When a Girl Needs a Friend

[Continued from page 43]

movies. Her parents, "who had old-fashioned ideas," had refused their consent. She had gone to work in a factory, learned to operate a machine, and saved from her wages. When she had \$200 put by, she had run away from home and come to New York City.

Time after time she had made the rounds of the studios. Only occasionally did she get a job, as an extra in the pictures. Then she had tried to get on the stage. In that quarter the refusals were flat. Discouraged, she had worried herself sick. Most of her money had gone for medicines. When she was able to try for work again, she had answered an advertisement for American girls wanted to sing in South American cabarets. An acquaintance had warned her in time what such an engagement would mean. Finally, the last of her savings were spent. She pawned her clothing to get money to buy food. The day before she had met a girl in the park who had offered to teach her to pick pockets. She had run away from her. And then—last night.

COMMUNICATION was opened with the girl's parents. They were of an unusual type, such as we seldom encounter. They did not want the girl back home. Her brothers and sisters, they said, never had found fault with their surroundings, were content to work in the factories. She had "run away, believing she was better than her people." In the future she could go where she chose, but must make her own way.

The legal requirement that, if a runaway minor is located, the parents or nearest relatives must be notified, had been complied with. Their refusal to take the girl back gave the League a free hand to act for her. First she was sent to a place in Connecticut, Hillerest Farm, and restored to good health. After a clerical position was obtained for her in the city, a good home was next provided, and then it was arranged for her to study stenography at night. Today she has a fine position in a financial house, and is receiving a good salary, sufficient to support herself in comfort and add a little weekly to her bank account.

She has won her niche in this great, busy world, and we are proud to claim her as one of our girls.

Understand, the foregoing is not fiction, but cold, hard fact. Just one case typical of the hundreds which each year are handled by the women of experience and understanding who carry on the work of the Girls' Service League of America at its New York City headquarters and its New England farm.

And, of all the organizations in the United States operated for the purpose of helping young women who are broke, discouraged, ill, or who have blundered—even to the extent of committing crime—we believe it is one of the most practical.

The League, which has been functioning for seventeen years, has assisted through the department of its New York office more than 35,000 girls "in hard luck." And its Girls' Service Club, with its recreational and educational features, has been attended by more than 150,000 young women who have become part of the League's mighty family. And we are very fond of this family, for they are all our girls and this is their home, whenever they choose to come to it.

The League works in conjunction with other organizations and individuals interested in girls' welfare work throughout the country. This enables it to reach out and help young women, particularly those who

have run away from home, no matter how distant or small the place may be in which they make the first mistakes, which ultimately get them into serious difficulties.

mately get them into serious difficulties.

The headquarters of the League in New York City is a reconstructed and thor oughly modern building in the Gramerc Park section. In its architecture is a suggestion of the colonial, which conforms to those of the nearby structures. It is surrounded by homes of wealthy persons many of them old time residents of the quarter, and the studios of artists and sculptors. There is not a suggestion of poverty or the slums near it. Its location is ideal for its purpose.

Miss Stella A, Miner, a woman of unlimited experience in the handling of all classes of girls "out of luck," is the secretary in charge.

Our greatest problem is that of adolescence plus poverty and bad environment. Here is how we meet it:

First, and most important, the doors of the League headquarters never are locked. This place above all else, is a *home* for girls who are in difficulties. We welcome them at any time, morning, noon and night. In summer the doors are open. In winter, a turn of the handle will admit them.

a turn of the handle will admit them.

Another thing about our "open door" policy, and one which appeals to our girls, is that they may leave here whenever they choose. We are not an institution in the sense that anyone ever is kept here against her will. In fact, we are the very opposite of every place that even hints at confinement. Our girls come here because they want to come or are persuaded by others to do so and talk with us. If they do not care to remain, they may leave.

Every person who ever has engaged in welfare work knows the intense dislike for the average "institution" by girls who, through mistakes or misfortune, have been in one or more of them. They hate their locked doors and barred windows, their strict discipline and the necessity of obtaining permission to come and go. To some the very mention of the word "institution" brings a sense of dread, even before they know the real character of the place.

That is the reason we have made the League Headquarters a home in the fullest sense of the word, where those in charge are looked upon only as friendly, interested confidants. We never have found the necessity for strict discipline. Our girls meet us more than half way. Kindness and reasoning go much further than "rules and regulations."

We try to make our girls comprehend that we understand their problems, and that our greatest desire is to help them. And when, coupled with such an atmosphere, our girls find their home is spotlessly clean and splendidly furnished, with such comforts and entertainments as many of them never had known, that there are opportunities for gymnastic exercises, to study certain of the arts and crafts and congenial companionship, it is no wonder they become our firm friends and loyal supporters.

A ND—this should be emphasized—no girl is charged one cent for anything while she is under our care. The food is free, a private room is free. And by free I mean just that—for nothing. Besides, no one is turned from our doors at any time.

Right here I want to summarize briefly some of the principle things for which we are striving, that the cases which will be cited later shall be thoroughly understood.

When a girl first comes to us for help, she is examined thoroughly to determine her mental and physical fitness. Now and

then we find one who is defective to an extent which requires special treatment in some institution which specializes in the handling of such cases. But only a very small percentage of the girls are defective. Some of them may not display unusual brilliancy or even ordinary brightness, and still not be particularly inferior mentally. Their failing has been caused by natural shyness, inexperience or improper training, One or all of these things have made them feel they were inferior to others. But such a condition can be overcome by proper coaching so that within a very brief time the backward tendencies disappear entirely.

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Many of the girls who come to us are in poor physical condition, really quite ill. These we send to our farm in Connecticut, where they are kept until they are strong and healthy. A great dear of doors. This up process is done out of doors. This absolutely essential. No girl and healthy. A great deal of this buildingis fit to begin the work of making her "come back" when she is ill. Her mind must be clear. She must be free from worries if she is to succeed.

Next, the girl must be made to have

confidence in herself, to take pride in her personal appearance. That makes for self Some girls come to us who are untidy, slovenly in their dress, and none too clean in their habits. Most of them would have given years of their lives to have made as good an appearance as the girls they have met. But they just didn't know how, never had an opportunity to learn.

WE TEACH our girls the principles of everyday hygiene which will keep them well—exercises, correct bathing and plenty of fresh air and sunshine-how to arrange their hair becomingly, how to dress neatly, and how to choose the clothing which will enable them to look their best. When a girl knows she is snappy, she is listless, backward and ashamed. But the instant she realizes she looks as well as those about her, her mental atti-tude changes. Her thoughts are brighter, she sees the world through confident and courageous eyes and her whole manner is

that of one unafraid.

Then there is the matter of loneliness. Few things are as harmful to a woman or girl as to be alone. Men and boys can go practically anywhere they choose in search of excitement and change. They are at liberty to make the acquaintance of strangers. But women cannot do this. strangers. They must follow along certain fixed lines of conduct, or they will provoke criticism and, often, get themselves into serious trouble. To the girl without companionship, life becomes a burden. And finally, in desperation, she turns her back upon the conventions in an effort to escape the monotony of her loneliness. That is why we see to it that our girls are made acquainted with congenial people, that they always have someone to talk with, friends with whom they may share their confidences.

It was a realization of the terrors of loneliness which caused us to organize the Girls' Service Club. Every one who comes there is certain of many friends and acquaintances-clean living, jolly, companionable girls-who are just as anxious to talk, to entertain and to be entertained as the others about them. Our programs of education and amusement features include many things, from afternoon tea and singing on Sundays, to dramatics, æsthetic dancing, receptions, social dances and lessons in dressmaking and other crafts.

And last, but not least in my summary, I come to the matter of a bank account. The very first thing we do, once we have found employment for a girl, is to urge her to save money and put it in a bank. If we can persuade her to deposit a fixed sum each week, so much the better. That



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dustry and in the moving picture business hundreds of men got rich by getting in at the start. They made their success before others woke up.

Think how much aviation has progressed in the last few years. Commercial air lines have already proved themselves successful both in Europe and America. Great men predict that in the near future there will be air-freight lines—organizations as large as our railroads are tolay. AVIATION IS NEW. It clamers fer every young mun.

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teaches her self-denial and to be regular fier habits and duties.

Let me make a statement, based on experience, in which I believe absolutely. If every girl had a bank account when she began to think of striking out herself, crime among our sex, particularly the younger ones, would be reduced the younger ones, seventy-five per cent.

Teach a girl to dress so as to make a good appearance, so she is not ashamed to seek work anywhere; get her to save until she has sufficient money in a bank to tide her over a period of possible illness or un-

employment, and she becomes 100 per cent self-reliant and independent. And not one such girl in ten thousand will do anything wrong, or return to evil ways or bad

surroundings.

It is amazing how many girls who come to us never have saved a dollar. In fact, a majority of them never had many dollars to save. But, once you get them to open bank accounts, and they become so interested that saving develops into a habit. They realize quickly that a little money will stand as a wall between them and such trouble as they have known in the past.

For weeks, months, and even longer, such girls bring their bank books for us to look at, and they are very proud of the entries they are able to display. hundreds of our saving girls, who go to other cities but keep in touch with us through letters, let us know how their bank accounts are growing. Here are some of the different types of

cases handled by the League

Mary, a half-orphan of eighteen when we first became interested in her case, was a runaway. Her home was in a little Connecticut town. Her mother had died soon after her birth, her father was a drunkard and shiftless, and she had been reared by a but grandmother who possessed little The girl often went without bare money. comforts, while her cousins, whose fathers were successful, had fine homes, were well dressed and were liberally supplied with spending money. Even when quite small spending money. Mary became rebellious over what she considered her unfair lot. And she tried to obtain what she wanted by stealing; candy and toys from children, money from her grandmother and others.

Then her father married a second time and took his daughter to live with him. Over a period of years there were frequent clashes, particularly with the step-mother. The girl was irregular in her school attendance. Finally she stole a considerable sum of money from her home, ran away and came to New York.

But she was not fitted to win a good place in the big city. And the poor cleri-cal jobs she obtained did not pay a wage sufficient to keep her in the girls' boarding house where she had obtained a room, and dress her like her companions. So, again, she resorted to stealing to meet her wants, taking money from the rooms of the other Finally suspicion fastened upon her, girls. and she was brought to us by the woman who ran the place, who did not want to have her arrested.

MARY denied the thefts. But she begged for an opportunity to make good in new surroundings. We were certain she had not told the truth, but wanted to help her. We kept her with us for a time. And we knew we had partly won her confidence when she told us of the wretched home life from which she had Later we obtained a place for run away. her as a mother's helper with a woman living in another state. But Mary's employer was told exactly what we believed the girl had done. She agreed to take her, how-ever, made her one of the family rather than a servant, with little to do except care for two children during the entire day

For a time everything went well. Then she borrowed sums from the family, which Later she stole a conshe did not repay. siderable amount of money. And, despite fact that her guilt was obvious, she denied it and was returned to us. questioned her closely and, for the first time, she admitted stealing from the girls in the boarding house. But she denied the later offense. We were kind to her, tried to make her realize she had been unfair to us, to her employer and, more particularly, to herseli. And again she pleaded with us to obtain a position for her, promising never to do anything wrong.

E WERE willing to co-operate. Many a girl had been made a useful citizen who had committed more serious offences than Mary. We sent her to our farm, where she remained seven months. began to take pride in her work. Then we increased her responsibilities, showed that we relied upon her. That made her realize she was among friends who trusted her. And she was absolutely square; never disappointed us.

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Finally she stated that she felt so certain of herself she wanted to return to the city and go to work, if possible as a trained nurse. And, at the time, she admitted every theft of which she had been accused. We argued with her that it would be impossible for her to become a nurse without special training, and that she would have to work and save considerable money before she could begin her course. She accepted our reasoning. And again we obtained a place for her as a mother's helper.

In her new home Mary found herself among those willing to help her. woman taught her to be neat in all things, how to arrange her hair in the fashion used by the other girls, and aided her in selecting clothing which gave her a smart appearance. In this latter she was helped by the husband, a dealer in women's wear, who purchased things for the virl at cost. They also persuaded Mary to open a bank account and, as the children were very fond of her, she became almost one of the family.

She remained in that place for two ears. In the first she paid back what she vears. had stolen. In the second she saved \$125 and took a commercial course at night. Then she obtained a good office position and went back to live in the girls' boarding house which she had left as a thief. Her associates respected her "come back," never referred to her past and became her friends. She continued to save and advanced in her position until she was earning a first class salary. Recently she mar-ried and, she tells us, is very happy. Fun-damentally, Mary was all right. But bad damentally, Mary was all right. environment and a weakling father were responsible for her getting away to a bad

Lola was only seventeen, bu' she was headstrong, stubborn and 2 typical adoles-cent of the "I'm determined to live my own When not at work, she spent class. her time with a crowd of fast boys and girls, most of them her seniors, who drank, smoked and danced away most of their nights. Her chum was a girl of nineteen, who had made repeated missteps and was decidedly worldly wise. Unable to control Lola, her mother, in desperation, brought her to us. We talked with the girl. She her to us. would not believe a word against her friend, and insisted she would live as she pleased or run away from home. though investigation we learned that, though capable, her habits made her unreliable, and she had been discharged from many places. While we were trying to win her over

by kindness, fearing she soon would get

into serious trouble, circumstances helped us out. Lola's mother bought a stylish suit nd a new hat for her. She wore them to a dance to show her friends. It was a ay evening. She remained so late she as afraid to go home, and slept in a coming house with her chum. When she woke she found her companion had dearted, taking the new hat and dress, and leaving behind her worn clothing.

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The girl came to us in tears, told what ad occurred, and said she would not go ome. That was our opportunity to help er. We could not buy her a new suit. But among the clothing given us by friends was a dress of expensive material and tylish cut, only slightly worn. We per-suaded Lola to return to her mother with ne of our workers and tell the truth. The result was a better understanding all round. And the mother, a good seamstress, soon refitted the second dress so that the girl made a better appearance than she had in the finery which had been stolen from her.

AND she had learned her lesson. She former acquaintances, became a steady and trusted worker and today holds a responsible position and has a good bank account. We didn't try to drive that girl. Just let her understand we wanted to be kind to her. And when she realized finally that she had made a serious mistake, she came straight to us for advice and help.

Edna, when eighteen, was arrested, charged with grand larceny. Because the Court believed she was not deliberately vicious, she was turned over to us. Her Her father had died when she was an infant. When she was fifteen, her mother, who had supported both by doing day's work, passed away. Relatives who took Edna to live with them sent the girl to work in a factory, took all her earnings, beat her, and supplied her only with second-hand and shabby clothing. Finally she ran away, shabby clothing. Finally she ran away, came to New York and obtained a place in a department store. She was punctual and industrious, but her employers discovered she had been stealing. She was arrested and confessed.

The girl was of a most affectionate disposition. And, with no relatives who cared for her, she had tried to make intimates of those she met. To win their favor she had given away what she had stolen, re-taining nothing for herself.

Edna was almost a mental and physical wreck when we got her. She never had known a real home. She always had felt known a real home. She always had felt herself inferior to other girls. And, after reaching the city, she had been driven half mad by loneliness. Realizing she needed a complete building up, that she must begin an entirely new life, we sent her to the farm until she was well. Then we obtained a good place for her, put her in a girls' rooming house, where she was surrounded by congenial companions, and saw to it that she had plenty of recreation, here and elsewhere. Occasionally some of the wealthy women interested in our work took her to their homes for "week ends."

It was no time at all before the Court gave her a full discharge upon recommendation of a probation officer. Today she is a competent office employee, receiving \$150 a month, has a substantial bank account and has helped other girls to get on feet, frequently bringing them to us.

Industrious, self-confident, seventeenyear-old Eleanor came to New York to hide from an unnatural father who had beaten her cruelly and threatened to kill her because she had told government agents about the bootlegging carried on in his little Pennsylvania store. She had been compelled to sell the "moonshine," and had full knowledge of the violations of the knowledge of the violations of the law. Once before, when her father had

Famous Marcelling Cap Now Offered at New Low Price

Tremendous volume of sales makes further re-duction possible on remarkable Curling Outsit



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In 15 minutes your hair is dry, you remove the Cap—and there is the love-liest marcel you

NOTHING succeeds like success!
Rarely has any invention received such hearty approval as the McGowan Marcelling Cap, recently granted a Patent by the United States Government. From the very first announcement, orders have come pouring in and pouring in, until now this marvelous mar-

celling outfit is in hands of more than 40,000 Instead of pricing this

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As a result, we were flooded with orders and we could hardly supply the demand. But now we have just completed arrangements which will practically double our capacity—and we're going after the next 40,0001

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Whatever style of "bob" you prefer-Whatever style of "bob" you prefer—shingle, Ina Claire, cross-wave, center or side-part bob—whatever kind of hair you have—soft and fluffy, coarse and straight, long or short—this new marcelling device is guaranteed to give you just the kind of marcel you want in 15 minutes' time. And the beauty of it is that you can have a fresh marcel every time you need it with as little trouble as it ordinarily takes to comb long hair. And each marcel will cost you about Ic. will cost you about 1c.

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WAS

formerly sold for \$2.87 plus postage which made price \$3,20 to \$3,35

NOW

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Cap and a large
size bottle of McGowan's Curling Fluid.
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bottle and the Cap, if ordered separately, for the
same amount—a total of \$3.74.
When we offered the combination for \$2.87 we had to do some
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order to get a great volume of sales
in the shortest possible time. Now
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which is based on the anticipation of
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PON CONTRACTOR

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threatened to beat her, she had rebelled and he had cut her head. When she learned he soon would be released from prison and received a threatening letter from him, excitable Eleanor feared his vengeance and ran away.

Later she added additional scraps concerning her unhappy past. Until she was eleven she had lived with her grandparents in Syria. After coming to America, her father's demand that she work in his store brought an end to her ambition to remain in school until she had obtained an education. During the year before his arrest, her father had announced that three Syrian suitors had named substantial sums for her hand in marriage. But each time she lad pleaded she was too young to be married, begging that she be allowed to wait a little while.

WHEN she reached New York she was without money, friends or any knowledge of the big city. A chance acquaintance brought her to us. We instituted proceedings which placed her in our charge. Then we obtained a good place for her and put her in a rooming house where there were other friendly working girls. She made good at her job, went to night school and learned to speak English; she still is studying, though recently she married an American of her own choice.

Carmelia was eighteen and an Italian. Her father died when she was quite small, and her mother, a woman utterly without spirit, remarried. As the girl grew toward womanhood, her step-father became infatuated with her. After a time she realized she was in danger and ran away to live with an aunt in the country.

But the man learned where she was and threatened to go for her if she did not return to him. Fearing to bring trouble upon her relatives, but determined never to see her step-father again, she again ran away, this time to New York. The girl was brought to us, frightened, broken in spirit, not knowing which way to turn. We took the necessary legal action which brought the man to his senses. And we found a home for the girl where she was taken in as a daughter.

A social relief organization referred the case of sixteen-year-old Jennie to us, with the information that she kept late hours, that her companions, older than herself, were vicious, and that she appeared to be headed straight for the underworld.

Upon investigation we found the girl was one of a considerable family. Her father had deserted his home. The mother, who supported herself and some of her children by taking in washing, had a violent temper and beat her offspring so all were afraid of her. And the flat was, as Jennie described it, a "dirty mess," to which she was always ashamed to bring any one.

But we also learned the girl was selfish, extravagant, with no respect for authority, craved excitement and wanted to become an actress. She had been a poor scholar, and her only jobs had been in factories, where her wages had varied from \$10 to \$15 a week.

A FTER a quarrel she had run away from home, was picked up by the police and ultimately turned over to us. We placed her in a boarding home where one of our girls was living. From the outset they liked each other. And, when the little stray found herself surrounded by congenial companions and in a place which possessed the cleanliness she long had desired, she became thoroughly contented. We obtained a place for her in a better class factory. And she is there today, earning a good income, dressing as

well as any of her acquaintances and putting money in the bank weekly.

Each girl is helped according to her needs. In many instances difficulties a home must be adjusted and parents mad to realize their responsibilities, taught to deal more wisely with their adolescend daughters to tide them over a difficult period. This is especially true of foreign parents, who do not understand their American-born children, and who still trato exercise old world restraints over them. Girls brought up in this country regar "treedom" as their right and insist upon going to dances and movies, retaining portion of their wages and choosing their own husbands.

Frequently these fathers and mothers speak no English, and the workers who know the language of the parents must reason with them, trying to make then understand that they have no right to beat their daughters and must allow them more liberty of action.

The educational work which a skilled visitor does in going into these homes helps the father and mother to deal more wisely, not only with the sixteen-year-old daughter, but with the several younger children.

Adjustment within her foster home was accomplished in the case of sixteen-year-old Valeria, whose big, brown Grecian eyes opened wide as she repeated the threat of the wife of the "boss" of the restaurant where she worked and in whose home she lived. "Boss-wife she say she cut my head open like a fish," she declared, following with charges of long hours of work, beatings, no recreation and little clothing.

VALERIA had confided to a neighbor she intended to run away from the abuse.

Through her the story reached the League. There was a long consultation at the home of the child-woman. Finally it was agreed that Valeria was to have fewer hours of labor in the restaurant, some opportunity for recreation and leisure, a little spending money, less old fashioned clothing and no more threats of beatings.

The last time the visitor saw the girl she was quite happy. "Boss-wife all right now," she said. "She all right all time and I all right."

The League is not intended to provide crutches, but to prevent a state of remaining crippled, whether that state means mental, moral or physical delinquency.

Its service is offered and given freely to the runaway girl who often finds the restrains of home life too irksome. New York City is the Mecca for all runaways.

They come here with high hopes and ambitions, determined to make their way and expecting to find the golden pathway to success. Often they lack opportunity and ability. They meet with discouragements and failure, or they have not the necessary funds. At such a time comes the definite need for protection and help. Many girls came to the League when they were on the brink of moral danger.

ITS service is for the girl who is "broke," whether in health or pocketbook. It will provide her a free room and board. It will help her to find a job—not merely any job, but one she is qualified to take and keep.

The League sets about finding out what a girl has been, is and can be. It seeks a basis of scientific fact, mental, physical and social, in order that she may be adjusted to her family, her work, her school—adjusted to a life that will yield stability and happiness instead of restlessness, harrassing temptations and despair.

A girl's need is her only requisite for admission. Our motto is, "Girls for girls."

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The Ancient Fool

[Continued from page 67]

even though she was not proved guilty, would be a bad thing for his standing. Wearily I turned and slowly went to my

What should I do now? The future as dark indeed. No friends, no money, was dark indeed. no means of earning money, no home, and I could not stay here any longer in the same house with Richard Hilton, despised, insulted, a butt for the remarks of the Amy Fultons of the world. And yet, where could I go? And Ambrose Hilton needed me now in all seriousness. But he could easily find another nurse. Still he had been kind to me, said I made his old age less lonely. And there was my promise In a torment of mind and heart, I threw myself across my bed.

Slowly out of the welter of my thoughts, emerged two distinct and very opposite planthoms: my love for Dickie; my hate for Amy Fulton. So real, so vivid were these feelings that the room pulsed with their being. She should not have Dickie to ruin him, as I could foresee she would ruin him, with her selfish nature, her greed, her flaunting ambitions. She would drive him, work him day and night, and his only thanks would be a demand for more, more! I knew her type. I had seen them And Dickie needed a woman who in action. would love him tenderly, praise him, pet him, urge him on to greater deeds, not drive him to them. Had she been different, it would have been hard enough to give him up to her, but seeing her as clearly as I did, it was bitter gall to me. Fiercely, I determined I would not do

I would save him in spite of himself. I sat erect in the fierceness of my resolve, my hands clenched. But the next instant slumped. How to do this thing? had shown me definitely that he was on her side, nor to me had he ever mentioned a word of love. Naturally he was too honorable for that. But did he love me? No matter whether he did or not. I loved him, and would save him from Amy Fulton. But how?

Suddenly, clearly, the way stood open. How blind I had been! Two and two may make four, but sometimes we mortals have a desperate time making that simple addition. Ambrose Hilton had said that Amy was marrying Dickie for the money Ambrose Hilton had said that he would one day inherit; Ambrose Hilton had asked me to be his wife. Presto! Were I Ambrose Hilton's wife, Amy, knowing my hate for her, would figure that I would take immediate steps to acquire all his wealth. Let her think so, though I would not touch a penny of it. But let her think so, and Dickie would be free, for she would not marry him. True, would be bound, but that did not matter. Dickie would hate me then, in good truth, for I could never make him understand. but the results would be worth the sacrifice. could scarcely wait for the morning to tell Ambrose Hilton my decision.

MY EYES were not red for I had not shed a single tear. My hurt went too deep for that, but my cheeks were sallow: there were huge circles under my eyes. had slept but little, and that fitfully

He noticed all this when I brought him his breakfast tray. He himself was as chipper as a sparrow, looking much better

than he had for weeks. I told him so.
"Queer, isn't it?" he smiled. "Generally,
after a had attack, and that was a had one, it takes weeks for me to become normal again. But look at me this morn-Must be the magic of your presence, ing. my dear.'

I smiled wearily, and he gazed at me more closely.

"But you look badly. What is it, dear?" I shook my head. I could not trust myself to speak just then.

Surely not working too hard. Still eving over the trial? You're too sensi-Still grieving over the trial? You're too sensitive, my dear. Ah! I have it. Amy Fulton made some nasty allusions last night, did she not? I remember faintly.

was in such great pain. "Worse than that," I a "Morse than that, I answered bitterly.

"Ah, yes, it comes back to me now, little
by little. She said you were my mistress,
didn't she? She would! Ah, my dear, my
dear! Marry me, Stop all these nasty
tongues from wagging. Give me a few I answered bitterly. years of peace and happiness, now, at the Stop my worrying. You will not suffer. The day we are married, I will re-make my will, entirely in your favor."
"No, Mr. Hilton, I do not want your money but perhaps."

money, but perhaps-

HESITATED. Here was my opportunity, but my heart beat oppressively.

It was not easy.

"Perhaps! You mean—you mean you will marry me?" His face was radiant.

I nodded. Again I dared not speak.

"Then you do care for the ancient fool a little? Oh, my dear, my dear, I'll need no medicine to get well now."

I gasned I had not considered that

I gasped. I had not considered that Ambrose would really be foolish enough to think I could care for him, and yet I had not the heart to disillusion him just then, a little later, but not now. Hurriedly turned my back, searching wildly for some excuse not to reply.

"But you must take your medicine," I snatched at the bottle.

He shoved it aside with a little laugh. "I'll take it—in a minute—and do you know why?"

I looke. "Why? looked astonished.

"Why? So that you can get well, of course. Dr. Hadley left it for you."
"Yes. It is his pet medicine, I guess. He warned me when he gave it to me an overdose would be fatal. That's why I'll take it."

drew back alarmed. He laughed. "No-no. It is because that is the same of medicine that killed Jim Brandeis. If it hadn't been for that, you would never

have came into my life. Oh, Anne!"

"My name is Alice," I reminded him again in a low voice.

"Ah, yes—Alice. When will you marry me?"

"The sooner the better," I said in des-

peration.
"Good." He caught my hand in his old bony one. I suppressed a shudder. "To-day? This afternoon! Dickie shall be my best man!"

But Dickie was not the best man. one will ever know how thankful I was for that. I could never have gone through

with it under his gaze. when Pete was sent to summon Dickie from his room to old Ambrose's room to hear the glad tidings. But Pete came back, But Pete came back, looking most perturbed.

"Pardon, sir, but Mr. Richard Hilton is not in his room.

"Not in his room?" Old Ambrose was so concerned over Dickie's absence that he did not notice the look of relief on my face.
"No, sir. He hasn't slept there. The bed is not disturbed."

"Have you heard from him-since break-

Pete looked disturbed. He hesitated. "Out with it," commanded Ambro "This is important."

"Yes sie."

"Yes, sir."
"Well," impatiently, "out with it, I said."

"He 'phoned about half an hour ago." "Phoned? From where? What did he

"I don't know where he 'phoned from,

"Well, what did he want?" Ambrose as having a fit of temper. Plainly Pete as unhappy. Apparently he wished to rotect Richard in something, and he did ot want to disturb Ambrose.
"Better tell him, Pete," I said, "it would

le very bad for Mr. Hilton to have another heart attack now.

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Pete looked at me gratefully.
"He said, sir, that he would not be in his office at all today; possibly would not Some very imven be home for dinner. portant and unexpected affairs had come He wanted to know how you were, and he warned me not to disturb you with this news.

My heart contracted. I knew what that "business" was. As vivid as a picture. I As vivid as a picture, I was. could still see Amy Fulton beating his l reast, promising to marry him at any time. She'd do it, too, to spite me if

nothing more. "Well," old Ambrose was saying, "he needn't be so secretive about his 'affairs.' He always confides in me, asks my advice. Didn't know that, did you, Anne? I'm not such an old fool, after all, you see."

Pete looked startled for a moment, but quickly concealed it.

"Perhaps he is being married," I suggested.

Old Ambrose chuckled.
"Not likely. Dickie doesn't do impulsive things like his old uncle. And just for being so secretive, he is missing out com-pletely on a unique honor. Not many nephews have the chance of attending their uncles as best men."

Pete's astonishment was not concealed

this time.
"Sir?" he said.

T'S true, Pete. Miss Mice and I are to be married—today—in a couple of hours.

I smiled wanly.

"Let Pete be the best man." Old Ambrose shook his head.

"No. At my one and only wedding, I am going to put on the dog. I'll 'phone Hadley to come over, at once."

Dr. Hadley came in a rush.
"The patient worse?" he greeted me in the hall

the hall.

"I'm afraid not," I answered. bit my lips. Certainly the wrong thing for me, of all people in the world, to say. "That is—I mean—I guess I'll let him explain," I finished lamely.

Dr. Hadley and Ambrose were together Pete was summoned and a long time. hurrically sent for a ring and the license. Old Ambrose had already 'phoned for a mmister. The general excitement was contagious.

In my room, I laid out my most attractive frock. It was orchid and lacey. I shook it out, almost loving it for being so lovely. Leisurely I soaked in a warm bath, perfumed my hair, manicured my nails. If this was to be my wedding day, I would at least pretend to happiness as long as I could, even though the groom was the wrong man-oh, very much the wrong

In my heart, I half hoped Dr. Hadley would dissuade Ambrose from his purpose, though I knew he never could. The poor old man! An ancient fool! Perhaps! And yet beneath his silliness, I was daily discovering surprising little "good spots" as he called them acts of thoughtfulness. he called them, acts of thoughtfulness hidden beneath a light laugh. Witness his generosity to Pete, to myself, even. And above anyone in the world, he adored

Luxuriating there in my bath, I recalled





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some of the episodes he had told me of Dickie's childhood (for his talk, come to think of it, was largely of Dickie, and I was always eager to hear it.) The time he, Ambrose, had rescued Dickie from a burning summer hotel at the risk of his own life; and again how he had rescued him from an unscrupulous woman at the risk of his purse; how deeply hurt he had been when Richard had decided on a lawyer's career in preference to that of one in his uncle's office.

"And." Ambrose had chuckled, "when

he became District Attorney, I told him I wished he would lose every case, but in reality I was mightily pleased."

I was roused from my reverie by Pete's knock on the door.

"How soon will you be ready, Miss?"

NEVER, I wanted to shout. For a panicky second, I felt I could not go on with it. Then Amy Fulton's triumphant on with it. smile flashed before me. I set my teeth.
"In half an hour," I answered Pete.

If Richard Hilton brought his bride home that evening, she would get a greater surprise than she would give. There was not the least doubt in my mind that Richard's "affairs" were nothing more or less than his marriage to Amy. Unkind to his uncle, thoughtless, selfish, none of that would matter to Amy Fulton! She would have Dickie safe, and at the same time her revenge on me. Well, we'd see! Two could play at that game.

My only hope was that she would delay until the following day. Then all would be saved, my sacrifice for Dickie would not be in vain. How very much it would hurt me to see Dickie married to Amy Fulton I dared not let myself think.

But I had to take the chance. Half an hour, less now, I would be the bride of old Ambrose Hilton. I shuddered. And still I must go on. And all my life I had dreamed of a wedding day, of orange blossoms, of a man to be loved. Well, this was not dreams, but reality. I slipped the orchid and lace dress over my head powdered my nose, opened the door, and stepped into the hall.

I do not know what I expected to meet in the hall. Perhaps I had a wild hope that Dickie would come rushing in, snatch me from the arms of old Ambrose Hilton, make me his own bride. Perhaps because of that wild hope, I lingered a bit on my way down the hall. But nothing happened. had reached the door of Ambrose Hilton's room.

"Dickie is away, marrying Amy Fulton,' I told myself furiously.

Quickly I opened the door and stepped

into the room.

In a dead silence, all eyes were turned toward me, the minister merely curious, Dr. Hadley bitterly disapproving, Pete trying to hide his disgust. Slowly I looked from one to another, and then to Ambrose, sitting propped up with pillows, in a big chair. He was gazing and gazing at me.

"Anne," he said suddenly, and opened his

"Oh, Dickie," I cried within myself, and advanced slowly to Ambrose Hilton's side. His arms dropped. I forced a smile. His arms dropped. I : "I am ready," I said.

There was no commotion, no excitement. Ambrose's heart must be considered. The minister stepped forward; Ambrose took my hand in his. There was a moment's silence. I gave one desperate last look toward the door, and then the minister began the ceremony. In four minutes, it was over. I was Mrs. Ambrose Hilton! The wedding certificate was duly signed by the two witnesses. No one kissed the bride. No one congratulated Ambrose. To my over sensitive imagination, everyone moved, talked, acted as though they were attending a funeral instead of a

wedding. In a few minutes, they had all

'That's a relief, eh?" said Ambrose.

"Yes," I answered heartily. "Good to be alone at last. Give the old

man a kiss, my dear."

I bent over him dutifully.

"And now, I have a surprise for you, a real surprise," cackled Ambrose.

"What?" I flung round on him. Wa this something concerning Dickie. I bimy lips lest I ask. Why did his workers. presence haunt me on this, my weddin day?

Ambrose only laughed. "Wait."

Wait I did, but very impatiently, walking about the room, gazing into the mirror looking out the window. Old Ambrosc chuckled and talked to himself.
"A real surprise! I told

I told you, wouldn't regret marrying me. won't. Not ever!" And you

I paused before a window. Not regret marrying an old man? I wondered! But I was married to him. Utterly impossible for me to believe that even now. Dickie? Was he married, too? To Fulton? Why was he away so long? Oh, of course, it wasn't dinner time, yet Would he be home, even for dinner?

My reverie was interrupted by a knock

on the door; I whirled,

Pete entered, followed by a man I had never seen before.

"Hello, Ambrose," he greeted myhusband.

I looked at him curiously. He was round-faced, round-bodied, red-cheeked. He looked like my childhood vision

of Santa Claus.
"Hello, Billy," answered Ambrose in

high glee.

"What's the everlasting rush?" asked Billy. "Your man, here, came rushing in, tore me away from lunch, scarcely gave me time to get my hat. Anybody'd think you were on your death bed, and wanted to change your last will and testament.' Ambrose chuckled.

"I always knew Pete was unusual, but he must be superhuman if he tore you from the table, Billy."

Billy grinned.
"Fair enough! But what in hell do you want?"

"You about guessed it." Billy stared at him.

"No death-hed about you!" Ambrose laughed aloud gleefully.

"Behold the groom! Just married, Billy, old boy. Cruel of me not to invite you, but there was no food. And this is Mrs. Ambrose Hilton."

He held out his hand to me. I came forward dutifully.

"My dear, I want you to meet an old friend and crony, Mr. William Appleby."

PPLEBY!" I gasped. "Not-but, of A course, William Appleby, the famous

Billy started to open his mouth, shut it, turned to Ambrose.
"Congratulations," he said, in a dry

voice.
"Isn't she a picture?" Ambrose looked at me dotingly, then sobered. "And now husiness-

"But, Ambrose—" protested the lawyer. Ambrose looked at him sternly.
"It is my money, and my wife," he said,

almost angrily.

Billy shrugged his pudgy shoulders, but his round face looked most unhappy. "Very well, only—"

I looked from one to another, bewildered. "No 'only' about it. Alice is the best wife I ever had, and she is to have all my money, every cent and snitch of it."

Then I awoke. [Turn to page 104]



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The Ancient Fool

[Continued from page 102]

"No-oh no, Mr. Hilton, please. I don't want your money. I couldn't take it.

Billy looked at me in great surprise. "Aren't you Alice Conner?"
"I was," I said.

"I was," I said.
"But she is Mrs. Ambrose Hilton, now,"

said Ambrose, sternly. "And to her, I will all my property."
"No, please," I begged desperately. "It's Dickie's. I don't want it."

A look of understanding seemed to dawn on Mr. Appleby's face, but Ambrose did

not see it.
"No! No! I tell you. What I have shall be yours. Dickie has enough of his own.

I appealed silently to the lawyer. He

only shook his head.
"He's a stubborn old cuss," he said, half affectionately; "I've never been able to move him.'

"And remember my heart, I'm not to be upset," Ambrose reminded me, gleeful at Ambrose reminded me, gleeful at having his own way.

And so it came about. I still pleaded against it, but in spite of me, Ambrose Hilton made his final will and testament,

leaving all he possessed to me.

"And that is your real surprise," he said to me, when once more we were alone, "What are you going to give me for it?"

I hesitated, blushed.
"Never mind, now. I see you are shy.

That's good. It means you do love me, though I never really thought you would." "Oh, please," I held out my hands. "Don't be ashamed of it, my dear. Love is a wonderful thing. I know. All these long, long years, since Anne died, I've had only a dream of it, but now, now at last, has come the reality, and you, for I do love you my dear, very greatly. will is only a small token of what I feel for you."

"Oh, please, Mr. Hilton," I begged.

"Mr. Hilton! That's good! Try Am-

brose.

I blushed again.

"It will be easier soon. Run out, now. Tell Pete he can go. Tell him to stay all night." Ambrose chuckled slyly. "I want you to prepare our dinner with your own little hands, our wedding dinner.

He was growing facetious, and I fled,

to give his order to Pete. Our wedding dinner! Simple fare. Ambrose could eat only lightly.

OH. THE whole thing is a farce," I cried aloud to the empty kitchen.

Prepare it myself! Indeed I would,

grateful for the physical work and for the distance, short though it was, from Ambrose. At least my newly acquired wealth was not making me haughty, big white apron and started. Why did he do it? I want I donned a

Why did he do it? I wanted Dickie to have that money; and he'd never accept it from me. And everyone would think I had inveigled him into it. And he was foolish about me-doty. And night was coming on!

"Oh, the fool! The old fool! The ancient fool!" I said aloud again, "But perhaps he's not the only fool."

"Who's not the only fool?" A young

cheerful voice rang out, ing aloud, thus, of me?" "Are you think-

I whirled

"Oh. Dickie," I gasped, "I'd forgotten

all about you!"
"Thanks," he ejaculated.

Never had he seemed so boyish, so lighthearted. "Amy!" I thought bitterly, "He has

married her. "Where's Pete?" he asked. "Gone. He left a good while ago."

"For good? Where's the silver?"

"Silver's safe," I smiled. Pete has gone, not for good, but only for the night."

"What's the occasion?" asked Dickie.

"Your uncle will tell you," I said, for "Your uncle will tell you," I said, f Ambrose had made me promise that would let him have the pleasure of telling

Dickie of our marriage. I was more than willing. "Oh, well," Dickie shrugged his splendid shoulders, "whatever it is, it will keep. Here, I'll help you."
"But I think your uncle wants to see

"He'll have to wait. I have important news myself."

I looked up quickly. It was coming now. "Amy?" I breathed, "Is she here?"

He shook his head. "Amy has nothing to do with this. It's

all about you."
I looked at him frightened. My heart

contracted.

He laughed aloud.

DON'T worry. I'm not sending you to prison. Listen," he caught both my hands in his, "this morning, a woman dies at the City Hospital, nothing unusual in that of course. Also, she made a death-bed confession. Not so unusual, either, perhaps. She admitted that she had killed Jim Brandeis."

"Oh. Dickie!" I clutched his hands. I

felt faint. Lots of people claim such things. Why, goodness only knows, so I didn't rush over to tell you at once. I investigated. But it was true, I guess. She claimed she sneaked into James Brandeis' apartment and put poison in his medicine while you were out

of the room."
"But how could she? The door was always locked."

"Said she had a key. Seems she was a favorite of his. He had toolishly given her a key to his apartment. Of course, when he threw her down, he got the key But she must have had this revenge in mind, for she had a duplicate made. It all hangs together beautifully although there's still one or two points I haven't been able to clear up yet."

"Oh, Dickie, oh Dickie, oh Dickie," I began to sob, hysterically.

"And you, you poor, innocent child. Blamed for such a ghastly deed. And how I persecuted you, hounded you, hated you. Can you ever forgive me, Alice? For, as bitterly as I hated you, I love you, love you, love you.'

I looked at him dumbly, for I was utterly speechless. Seeing all that was in my eyes, he snatched me close against him. I felt his fast-beating heart. I was swept under in the flood of his kisses.

"Dickie! Oh, Dickie." I sobbed, clinging to him. And then suddenly, "Amy?

What about her?

"Last night finished that!" His jaw was set. I put my hand up and felt its powerful muscles. Ambrose and all the wild fantasy of the afternoon has passed from I was blissfully, entirely my memory. happy.

Kiss me again, Dickie," I said.

He complied. And then, into our bliss, came a terrible voice.
"And this is the thanks I get."

Ambrose had hobbled to the door, apparently to see why I was so long about dinner. He stood there now, a veritable

scare-crow, terrible in his anger.
"I forgot," I gasped.
"Uncle Ambrose," Dickie turned to him joyously, "Alice is going to marry me."
"Marry you!" snorted Ambrose. "How

can that be since she is already my wife?"

The face that Dickie turned on me was that of a man suddenly stricken in his full strength. I could not speak. Slowly his pain turned to disgust, anger, towering

"Then it's all a lie. You are the low sneak I first thought you. Maybe you bribed this woman to lie on her death-bed. It's about what you are capable of. Would

that I had never seen you."
"Oh, Dickie." I held out beseeching hands after him. But he turned his back on me, roughly brushed his uncle aside, and was gone.

sank to the floor in a heap.

I heard Ambrose moving down the hall.
A second later, the front door banged.
Hours later, I managed to crawl to my
room, and throw myself across my bed in all my wedding finery, rumpled beyond recognition.

PETE found me there the next morning. After hours of agony, I had dropped asleep where I lay, just as dawn was creeping in at the window.

When I felt Pete's hand on my shoulder,

I sat up startled.
"Where am I? What's happened?" I asked.

"That's what I'd like to know," said

I rubbed my eyes and looked at him. He did not seem like Pete, but a strange, terrible being. I shrank from him. "What is it, Pete?"

"Mr. Hilton's dead, though I suppose that's no news to you!"

'Dickie!" I screamed.

"Not Dickie. No use acting with me. Mr. Ambrose Hilton lies dead in his room."

I stared at Pete.
"No," I said.
"Yes," he mimicked me.
"He can't be," I insisted.

"Can be. Just you come and see."
"But how can he be?"

"I - think - he - was - murdered," said Pete slowly.

An ugly word! I still shuddered at the sound of it.

"But who would murder him?" I in-sted. "Surely not Dickie. He adored sisted. He adored And you were away.

Pete raised his eye-brows.
"Yes, I just came in a few minutes

"Surely Dickie locked the front door when he went out."

"So, he was out the night, too. I think you'd better change to another dress." He looked in disgust at my crumpled condition. There'll be a man from headquarters here

in a short while."

"Headquarters?" I was still dumb.

"Yes, I 'phoned them. I was unable to reach Mr. Richard Hilton. He wasn't at Fulton's, nor his office, but I left a message for him.

It can't be true," I said again. "You might go see for yourself.

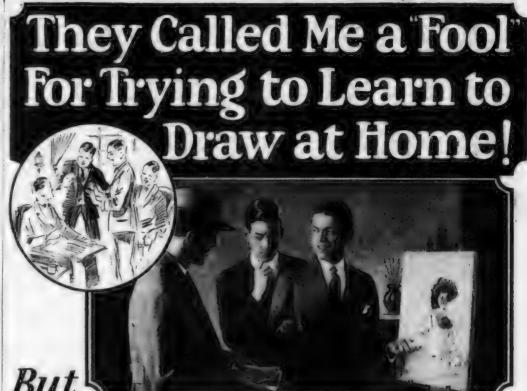
The suggestion was sarcastic, but I went in good faith. Pete followed close at my

Ambrose Hilton sat in his chair, propped day, during our wedding. How bitterly it all came back to me. The poor old man! He was pathetic now old up with pillows just as he had sat yesterman! He was pathetic now, old, bent, alone and dead! But on his face was a smile. In his hands was the miniature he had once shown me of the pictured face of the girl called Anne. On the table near his elbow stood his medicine bottle—empty. Tears came to my eyes. I turned

"Have you called Dr. Hadley?" I asked. "He can not do any good, now."

that's evident. But I think he should be notified."

"Do you want him?" Again Pete looked



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But I remained firm. "All right, fellows," I said, "time will tell." And it did!

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at me strangely, his eyes peering into mine.
"Yes," I said slowly, "This looks to me
like an intentional—mistake."
"I see," said Pete, and sarcasm was now

more than evident in his voice, "I'll 'phone him. But it won't do any good. I'm sure he'll agree with me."

I knitted my brows. What did Pete mean by that last remark? No matter. What did Pete didn't have time to puzzle it out now.
must hurry and change my dress. How should I appear? In nurse's costume, or as Mrs. Ambrose Hilton? I finally decided on my dark brown, simple

When I re-entered Ambrose Hilton's room, several men were there moving about. Two of them were strangers to me, evidently the men from headquarters, for they were examining every feature of the room. Near the dead man's chair stood Dr. Hadley and Pete, talking in low voices.

A CASE, certainly, for the District Attorney," I heard Dr. Hadley say as I interrupted with my "Good morning!"

He gave me a curt nod.
"I have sent for the District Attorney," said Petc.

"That's right. That's Richard's job."
"Have you heard from him?" I asked
Petc, in a stifled voice.
"They 'phoned from his office that he
was on his way here."

Roth men seemed to draw heals at my

Both men seemed to draw back at my approach. This news threw me into a terrible turmoil. To face Dickie, so soon again, like this, after what had happened between us. It was too terrible, for he really was as much to blame for old Ambrose's suicide as I was. And yet, he must think so. I must prevent that, for Dickie would never forgive himself.

The door was flung open, and Dickie stalked in. He was icy in his grief. He did not see any of us. He knelt before

Ambrose.

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We were all silent. But through the

door bustled Mr. Appleby.
"Richard! Is this true? I've just heard. This is terrible. He made his will vester-Did you know? He left everything

to his wife. Damn shame, I say."

"His wife! Ah, yes!" Dickie looked up then, and caught sight of me.

"You—you—" he choked as though he could not find words vile enough to fling at me. "You killed him, just as you killed Jim Brandeis."

"That isn't true" I screamed. "Dickies."

"That isn't true." I screamed. "Dickie,

you know that's a lie.

But he went on, unheeding mc.
"I thought that's what you were up to when you first came here. I told you, you remember, that if you hurt one hair of his head, nothing could save you, not even your beautiful body. And now—this! This! To him! I'll crush you now. I've got a motive this time, a powerful one. And evidence, and the power to finish you. And I'll do it, too—you angel-faced, lying sneak. You fooled me for awhile, too, with your baby-face. But I see you now, for what you are."
"Dickie." I moaned. "Don't! Oh, don't

do this thing to me."

"To you! That's good!"

"I was willing to do anything, to die, to spare you pain because I loved you. And this is my reward. Dickie, don't do this to me."

For a minute, I thought he softened. His eyes looked longingly toward me. Then he caught sight of his uncle, and his face turned ugly. He turned toward the two strange men.

"Take her, and throw her into the dirtiest prison on earth.

The two men approached to take me by

the arms.
"Wait," I shrieked. "Wait. Give me

half an hour. I'll prove my innocence."

"Don't listen to her," said Richard Hilton, glaring very angrily at me.

"You must. Just half an hour. Guard your doors. I can't escape. If I fail, I don't want to escape."

Dickie shrugged his shoulders.

"Very well. Just thirty minutes. What n she do in that time." He turned to illy Appleby. "What can she do in thirty Billy Appleby. "What can she do in thirty years to prove her innocence of such a das-

tardly deed, with her record, and to me?"
Yes, what could I do? But I had the
desperate hope that if I could find that will of Ambrose Hilton's and tear it up, there, before them all, that at least, I would convince Dickie of my innocence. As to the rest of the world, I did not care. Let them put me in prison, let them brand me murderess, but if I could save Dickie's love out of all this terrible crash, I could live on, happy even in prison.
But where to start? I tur

I turned to Billy

Appleby.

"Did Mr. Hilton give you that will?"
Billy Appleby shook his head.

"No; he said he had a good hiding place for it."

I begged them then to let me search

the room. But my frantic search showed nothing resembling a will, and took twenty minutes of my precious thirty. Everyone was watching me, smiling sarcastically. Only Dickie followed my every motion with eyes that glowered.

It seemed as though failure was to be my only reward. I stood still in the middle of the room, my arms hanging at my side.

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In that instant, it seemed as though someone touched me on the shoulder, I looked around inquiringly. My eyes lighted on the miniature held in old Ambrose Hilton's

The desk! The secret door! Of course! I turned and dashed from the room. Dickie and Billy Appleby followed me. On my knees before the desk, I struggled with the secret spring. Precious minutes were flying. Ah, there! I was right.

BEFORE me lay that all important document. I snatched it up, and a small white piece of paper fluttered to the floor. I picked it up, read it hastily, and with tears in my eyes, handed it up to Billy Appleby.

My dear, I am placing this where you, and you alone will find it. I was angry. desperately so, to see you in Dickie's arms. But I understand now. And do not blame either of you. It is only right and natural that you love one another. As I look back see that you never professed to love me. Why you married me is a mystery since you so violently opposed this will, and since you did not love me. Anne is the only one who loves me, or ever did. I am going to her, at last. That medicine is aoing to her, at last. That medicine is handy. Do not regret, only be good to my Dickie. He needs you more than I do. And forgive an ANCIENT FOOL.

"Dickie. Oh, Dickie!" I broke down and sobbed convulsively.

And then, Dickie's arms were about me, my head on the rough cloth of his shoulder. He seemed to tremble with the thought of

how nearly he had come to crushing me. "Oh, Alice," he said. And it was as though all the heartbreaks of his life were in those two words-and all the promise. THE END.

Have you noticed the "\$5,000 for Your Stories" contest on page 72? Maybe you have a story that is better than Alice's in "The Ancient Fool," which you have just finished. Wouldn't you like to see it in SMART SET? Get busy; you'll find it interesting, and you may have a winner.-THE EDITOR.

The Hidden City

[Continued from page 37]

"Just because a man does not indulge in your particular kind of pleasure, you ider him a simpleton, I suppose.

"But, Eden, how can you do this, after cur evening together?"

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A strange sound passed my lips. I laughed aloud. We Friends smile frequently, but seldom laugh outright. Clyde's last appeal was too preposterous. Laughter struggled for release before I could stop

After all the shame and humiliation he had heaped upon me, he had the effrontery to recall those few sacred hours. After all the dreariness and sorrow he had brought into my life, he dared to intimate that I should be true to a trust he had already violated.

Do you blame me for laughing? Clyde's face grew purple. Little Emily clung to me, her arms locked tightly about my throat, as if she were frightened at this unaccustomed sound.

"I thought you were different," Clyde said, his bitterness matching mine. "I But what's the thought you'd understand. good of trying to explain if you're so sure good of trying to explain if you're so sure in advance that nothing can justify me? You—you of all people. You're like the rest, Narrow-minded, intolerant. Blind to any ideas not approved by your ancestors. Judging by superficialities instead of getting at a fellow's motives. You're so devoted to the letter of your beliefs you devoted to the letter of your beliefs you lose sight of the spirit.

"I'm a fool to blame you for it, though. Some day I'll tell this to the whole town assembled. And I'll do it good and assembled. proper!"

If I believed that words of his could no longer influence me, I was mistaken. They could still hurt me, and they His denunciation rang in my ears. Martinsville—narrow? Martinsville—intolerant? Martinsville-blind?

He had taken unfair advantage of me by rushing off so soon. I wanted to argue with him and convince him of his error.

I thought of the years of harmony our village had enjoyed. Was that intolerance?

I thought of the kindness shown each other in times of distress. Was that the letter of our belief and not the spirit? I could recall daily instances of sympathy and understanding right in my own home. What would have happened to me had my parents judged superficially instead of considering my motives?

At the evening meal, I merely mentioned to my parents that Clyde had come to explain his behavior but had been quite unsuccessful. My feelings toward him clouded my vision. I did not realize that I gave him no opportunity to explain.

OUR conversation had only succeeded in driving us farther apart. Almost it seemed we might never have known each other. He was more of a stranger than he had seemed the first night of his arrival.

Yet events seemed to conspire to keep m constantly in my thoughts. I kept him constantly in my thoughts. brooding on his accusation, and wondering what he meant by telling "the whole town assembled." In retrospect, these words

filled me with wonder.

I was myself guilty of that for which
I had reproved Tillie Dunnebecker. At a
season of the year when only the most gracious of sentiments should have moved me, I entertained unworthy feelings

toward the man who had brought discord into my life.

That year, the eve of the Lord's Birthday was the most beautiful I can remember. The air was crystal clear, exhilarating, life-giving. The world was crowned with stars, glittering points of light; like jewelled



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thorns in that other Crown. Still, I felt that something unforeseen would happen.
As I sat at Meeting next morning, with

warm. Christmas sun streaming in through the window and falling upon me like a benediction. I tried to tear this unseemliness from my heart. Hardly had I begun to pray for Divine Guidance when a voice I knew too well broke into my de-

"Friends!" said that voice. something I've wanted to say to you for a long time. Since I'm a stranger, maybe today would be the proper time to say it.

It was Clyde Orsay. Clyde the outsider, Clyde the worldling addressing the Friends Meeting! Trained as we were to accept the day's preacher merely as an intermediary, nevertheless a distinct thrill of expectation could be felt throughout the Meeting. Every head went up and all eyes strained toward him.

I think I told you somewhere in my story that visitors as well as members of the Society of Friends may talk at Meeting whenever inspired by the Word of God. In big cities, no dou't, this happens occasionally. In Martinsville, to which strangers came so seldom, no such instance was on record.

Phrases flashed through my mind. "Some day I'll tell the whole town assembled. And I'll do it good and proper!"

Every head went up save mine. mine lower, and my heart pounded the last drop of blood from my body into my face. "Not now, Clyde," I prayed. "Oh, if

you have any last vestige of feeling for me, don't say it now!"

But he had come prepared to denounce us, as I believed, and having already spoken the first words, nothing could in-

fluence him to retract.

"Friends," he went on, in a voice strangely

devoid of the bitterness I expected. came here as a stranger, and you took me in. You didn't approve of my business here, but you gave me your help whenever I needed it. That was more than other folks might have done. I appreciated it. But now you've turned on me. I'm not a judge, and I'm not here to tell you what to do. I just want you to listen to my side I, myself, was brought up of the story. in a religious home. That's why I respect your creed and admire the kind of life you lead. If it wasn't for that, I wouldn't care what you think of my ways."

At this juncture, I ventured to raise my ead. Clyde had discarded his working head. attire for clothes such as he had worn when we went to the dance. He looked even taller in them, more decisive, and some subtle virility seemed to emanate from him. It was not so much the earnest expression in his face, nor the intensity of his voice, as a combination of both that produced his strange fervor.

YOU'VE built a wall about yourselves. You say that all which happens on this side of your wall is right; all on the other is wrong. You seem to know just where right ends and wrong begins. I wish I did. You don't build any fences around your property, but the way it looks to me is that you've built a fence against the rest of the world. Now, the world outside isn't all bad. It's true that you're loyal, and would do anything for each other. But do you care what happens on the other side of your wall? No, because what happens on your side is right. Whatever I do on

my side is wrong."

Eagerly Clyde's eyes searched the sea of faces before him, halting in their restless search when they met mine. a minute—but in that minute the little wall which I had built about myself swayed The congregation stirred ununcertainly. Already the nature of his accueasily. Already the nature of his accu-sation began to be clear. Father sat with his head bowed and eyes closed. was grave. I remembered that Clyde had wanted to explain and I had not let him. was aghast at my own blindness.

Then Clyde went on to tell how these men had happened to visit him. They were old army associates. Having heard the he was in Martinsville, they had travelled two hundred miles just to spend one nigwith him. They were good-heart fellows, he said, much older than he, read good-heart to share the last crust with a friend, let a little lax in their personal habits. The had of course brought the liquor with them, drinking and gambling being ther favorite pastimes.

"Don't a man's motives mean anythin? To one of these men I owe my life. Yes he saved my life on the battlefield. There nothing I wouldn't do for him. All that I've got, he can have. Do you think let shut the door in his face just because you don't like his drinking or language?

I could scarcely breathe with all the misgivings that oppressed me. Many other women, who certainly could not have had the personal interest in this that I had, sat with fingers clasped tightly, moved by the mounting ardor of his voice.

"I'm no angel myself, and I don't want anyone to think I am. I played cards with a single man here who can swear—" he "Excuse me. You them, and I drank with them. But is there caught himself up. "Excuse me. You don't take such oaths. I mean, did anybody see me drunk? Nobody took the trouble to find this out. If it was one of your own men you wouldn't judge him so

quickly. Would you?"

The Meeting House grew quiet as a Except that we are trained to make no sign of emotion during the sermon, many would have gasped at his frankness. I knew too well that the accusation of intolerance and narrow-mindedness had anpalled them as it had me. But would they realize the injustice of our behavior as I did, or would their indignation rise to a higher pitch in denial?

IN THAT interval of silence I faced my own problem squarely. I loved Clyde. This unnatural bitterness had been a screen my own making to hide the truth. Realizing that our love could never reach its natural conclusion, I had deluded myself with this bitterness, lest I cherish some fond memory of him.

I loved Clyde, and if he would still have me, doubtful as this seemed, I would

go to him. Nothing must interfere. even my parents. After hearing Clyde, I knew that in the end he could convince them of his worthiness

Clyde was still standing. In his drawn face, his eyes glowed almost feverishly.
"I said before that I admire your ways

That doesn't mean that and your creed. I'm ready to adopt them. I'm not asking you to change to my way of living. vou're really open-minded, you oughtn't to ask me to change to yours. All I want to say, on this day, is 'Tear down your wall.' There's a lot on our side that ought to come in. There's a lot on this side that we need there. It's a time of good-will. Let's reach an understanding.

A half hour of contemplation elapsed before the Christmas Meeting dispensed. Outside, Clyde became the centre of attention, and to my relief I saw that he was being thanked for having pointed out this fault. The congregation was moved. There could be no doubt about that. But just how much this simple sermon had influenced the community toward adopting a larger outlook, no one could say yet.

At Father's invitation, Clyde came home to Christmas dinner with us. Father himself asked the Blessing, thanking God for having sent Clyde to point out the error of our ways. Then he apologized to Clyde

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for his hasty judgment; his hard and set] conclusions.

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I cannot remember what happened during that meal. I know I did not talk to Clyde, nor he to me. Tears stood too perilously close to the surface for me to venture an idle conversation.

idle conversation.

"I admire thy insight," said Father to him, "and respect thy fearlessness. Such a man as thou art may indeed be a fitting friend to the most scrupulous."

My parents left us, knowing we would have much to say to each other. I thought it my duty to smale first. I had to atom.

it my duty to speak first. I had to steel myself to do it. I felt so small, so mean, remembered how I had prayed that he might see into our hearts as we could see And now he had seen even into his.

BUT Clyde was impatient of explana-tions. He swept me into his arms. He kissed me again and again until every breath I took seemed by some miracle, to be transformed into a kiss.

"Paradise lost-and regained, my little Eden!

"Clyde, wilt thou—really forgive me?"
"I was a fool for not making you understand in the beginning. Instead I was proud, and wouldn't let you see that I really cared. But I do, my dear, I do. I care enough to give up my profession and care here here to lead your simple life."

come here to lead your simple life."

"I would not ask thee to do that," I protested softly. "I would follow thee anywhere, Clyde."

There was no reason for our waiting Clyde would have to be in the district many months. We could know the joy of our

own home during that time.

Several weeks later, we were married in the Friends' Meeting House. 1 wonder if you can appreciate the meaning of this. Previously only two Friends could be united in wedlock by our own ceremony. The power to change this ruling rested with the elders of each branch of the Society, and when the news of our betrothal was announced, the elders exertional their right. cised their right.

Thus was the first stone in our wall dislodged. Outwardly, Martinsville may seem the same sleepy village it once was. Inwardly it has changed. A new spirit is growing—a conviction that if all which we considered worldly is used for a good purpose, that is its own excuse for exis-

Several of the very young children have been sent away to private schools in big cities. A few girls and boys of my age have gone out seeking careers—medicine, and music, and art. Humility Fenwick, has married and lives in Chicago, and is shortly expected for a visit.

At times Clyde's work carries him to distant towns. I go with him, and wear your kind of clothes. But the instant I return, I slip back into my grays and browns, my caps and kerchiefs—not be-cause they are better, but because I am used to them, I suppose.

Only somehow we cannot grow accustomed to automobiles. I know you will laugh at me. The more adventuresome of us have vacuum cleaners, and wash machines, and even radios.

Whoever wishes to sell a horse within radius of fifty miles comes to Martinsville. We cling to our two-wheeled carts and our buggies.

THE END.

Now that you've finished this threepart story of Martinsville, write me what you think of it. Don't forget to mention the others of this issue-and you may win a prize.—THE EDITOR.

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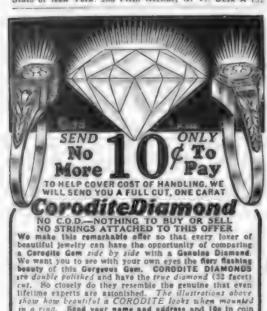


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The Seventh Player

[Continued from page 57]

It was a queer rosition I'd found to enable me to stay on in Papeete. I was waitress and mixer of drinks at what Jack O'Brien was pleased to call his hotel. It was my skill in the last named capacity that got me the position, I think—that, and Jack O'Brien's quick, if slightly weatherworn eye, for a pretty face and figure. I went about my rather humiliating new duties indifferently and uncaringly enough. I had learned to take care of myself in many ports and Jack O'Brien and his native wife were good-hearted.

I seemed to be living in a dream, those weeks. All connection with my past life was broken. I faced the truth now. I was in love with Dexter Fenton. I had been in love with him even when he had sat sodden with drink, taking glasses mechanically from my hand in my father's home. I was living only for a boy doomed, perhaps, to die; a boy who had probably never given me a full, seeing glance; a boy who was now lying delirious with another girl's name on his lips.

WENT often to see him in the bare cell-like room where they were keeping him. He had but careless attention, I think, for a man as ill as he was. I tried to tempt him with delicacies cooked by Jack O'Brien's native wife.

It was with mingled dread and gladness watched him climb slowly back to con-I saw the delirium go out of valescence. his eyes and the fever fade from his cheeks and I gained a new friend on the island, the man being held for the murder of my father.

Desperately I tried to prod his memory of what had happened that night. His mind was a blank. He had a confused recollection of me giving him drinks, of losing, losing, losing everything he had. Then-nothing.

He would sit up in his narrow hard bed and run his hands through his crisp dark hair, his face working with the effort

of remembering. You remember," I'd insist, "the Swede left, then Lo Fun, then Morrison. You remember Morrison's leaving, don't you. lean toward him feverishly.

"I don't seem to remember—a thing," he'd say slowly. "I was paralyzed. I have a vague feeling of being there, of losing, drinking-I was paralyzed. paralyzed for months. I wouldn't allow myself to come to. There was—a reason myself to come to.
—why I couldn't."

"Don't you remember Aveille's leaving?"

I'd persist. I couldn't give up.
"Not a thing," the boy would say hopelessly. "When I woke up they had the bracelets on me and it was morning. They

claim I was putting it on, that passing out stunt. But it was the real goods. Well—" he'd rally cheerfully—"we musn't

Suppose they send you away," I'd falter.

"Suppose they do," he'd say indifferently. 'Better than rotting in this hole.'

"Isn't there someone I can notify," I ked him one day; "someone in the asked him one day; "someone in the States who could helf you?"
"Not a soul," he said cheerfully. He

He grinned again, and the grin went

off in a trembling of his lips.

"The laugh's on me," he managed to say. "She married the other fellow."

He his answer would be.

He nodded. "Funny thing, too," he added; with fever seems to have burnt that lady out of me, more or less. I can see now what a bally fool I was. Well—" he

We were silent for a long time after that. The boy smoked with a fine assumed carelessness and I watched him.
"The laugh," he said at length, "seems to be on me all around. Somebody—must have—stacked the cards." He loosed little puffs of smoke between his words and watched them interestingly as they

and watched them thousand the state of the s girl," he said remorsefully. "Here you've been comin' in here like—like Florence Nightingale herself—and I've never asked you how things are goin' with you."

It didn't seem to me there was any need of telling him how things were going with me.

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Mario, the Argentine, came to Jack O'Brien's hotel for the late supper that night. I often thought, wearily, that eat ing and drinking was all that human beings thought of in that latitude. I was a sort of assistant manager at Jack O'Brien's by that time. I had charge of the make shift bar, of mixing drinks for more important patrons, such as visitors from the boats or petty French officials, and it was my business to see that the native girl helpers were kept busy, thus giving Jack O'Brien's wife time to sit and grow fatter.

Mario hung about me that night as he always did. Under Jack O'Brien's eye I had to be courteous to him. The Argen-

tine spent his money freely.

"I hear your young friend is going to live after all," he said.

"Yes," I admitted.

"I hear they're planning to pack him off on the next boat," he went on.
"Are they?" I managed to keep my voice

steady. The next boat! Ten days! Mario smoked coolly. He eyed me

speculatively.
"You're making a mistake," he said. tapping the ash from his cigarette with a slender brown finger—"You'll be sorry, I think, for having taken the glacial pose with me. How long will it protect you at a place like this? I'm offering you

marriage. How many of the others are?"
I was scarcely hearing him. I looked out at the strange silhouette of a Tahiti night against the moonlit sky and waters. There seemed to be not a breath of air or a movement of leaf or wave. The low laugh of a native girl came from some where in the darkness. I wanted to beat my hands against it suddenly, this Tahiti. Had I ever thought it beautiful? I hated it now.

Dexter Fenton was to be taken a prisoner on the next boat to come through those golden waters! The real murderer was standing here smiling at me and saying brutally—"I'm offering you marriage—"

TURNED abruptly and left him. I would not let him see and mock the grief that came up in my eyes. I went about my duties at O'Brien's

in a daze that next week, spending all my spare time with Dexter Fenton.

He knew, it seemed, that he was to go on the next boat. He spoke of it carelessly, his very carelessness of his fate wrenching at my heart.
"The trouble is," he said, grinning.

grinned, a weak sort of grin.

"You spoke of someone quite often when you were ill," I said, flushing scarlet; "Aline."

"You spoke of someone quite often when wouldn't mind that. It's what I came the said of the said, grinning, at my neart.

"The trouble is," he said, grinning, they won't knock me off. They'll stow me up for twenty years. A quick end—I wouldn't mind that. It's what I came

"On account of-Aline?" I knew what

grinned again—"there won't be a hell of a lot of folks put out when I kick off."

I walked to the small high window of the

c.ll and stood with my back to him. ! Three days and the boat would be It wouldn't, after all, do him any

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"There'll be one," I said steadily.
"There'll be one a—a little more than Interest be one and interest than just out. I know—it can't mean much to you, perhaps. It—it may mean nothing. But whatever it means—I love you." I was clasping my hands nervously now—I was forcing myself to go on. "You 'ian't say nobody will care. I'll care. l ved you the first time you staggered into my father's place, I think. The hardest thing I ever did was give you—more liquor. I wanted to hold your—your head in my arms. I wanted to scream at them all . . . You'll think me a fool," I all . . . You'll think me a fool," I turned back at him. My eyes were wet.

Dexter Fenton's eyes were You—you're a brick," he said. wet, know." He ran his fingers through his hair, trying to regain his composure. In another minute his brave, careless

rise had broken up and he was on his knees by the bed, his head against my knee. He seemed one of those fresh cheeked young English boys, afraid for a moment, and I comforted him.

Things happened quickly, at the end. I was in O'Brien's dining-room, lobby, and bar combined when a Señor Alvarez came in and registered. He wrote his name on the dirty book on the high bar that was also the desk. He made a quick movement at his coat lapel and said a few curt words to Jack O'Brien.

"Ain't seen anybody o' that description around here," O'Brien answered, his face

blank.

PAPEETE, like other ports of its kind, I is a hiding place of men and many pasts. It is the part of discretion for an pasts. It is the part of discretion for an inn-keeper in such a port to know nothing, of course. I paid no attention to the incident until, passing the stranger his glass over the dirty book, I glanced at the huge black scrawl and saw that he was an Argentine. Waiting until O'Brien had waddled away I smiled at the newcomer. "Looking for someone?" I asked in a lowered voice. There was a wide hope in my heart. I was catching at straws now. The boat was in.

The boat was in.

He studied me.

"You're like your dad, I suppose," he said testingly, "—don't know anything?" "He's not my dad," I countered, "and I know a lot."

He drew something from an inside pocket, keeping it carefully covered with his hand.

Ever see him before?" He whipped his hand suddenly from before the face of a small photograph. His eyes were intent on my face.

A small cry escaped me.
"I see you have." He returned the picture quickly to his pocket and eyed me sharply. "The question now is, are you working with me to apprehend a criminal a murderer-or are you planning a way warn him?"

"He's wanted?" I could scarcely control

the trembling of my voice.
"Yes," he said shortly. "Somehow or

other I trust you. Can you tell me where he is?"

"I can take you there." I laughed hysterically. "Have you a gun?"

The night in Tahiti can be kind, after all. It was very still on the veranda of lack O'Prior's lotal, the guests having Jack O'Brien's hotel, the guests having gone that night to a hula festival which would probably last until the early hours of the morning. Only Dexter Fenton and



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They were all wrong though. At first I didn't

well without a teacher."

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I in all Papeete, perhaps, had no interest in the festival. There was a rich golden moon and the trees stood in silhouette against the waters. The laughter of dancing native girls came in on a breeze that was thick as incense with the perfume

of flowers.
"It's beautiful," Dexter Fenton said.
"You're beautiful, too," he added, turning

I reached my arms out to the night and drew in a deep breath. I had put flowers in my hair, native fashion, to welcome the boy from the States back from his little cell-like room. "I'm happy," I explained. He touched one of the flowers at my

temple lightly.

'I'm not exactly miserable myself," he need. "Say, I could say a lot to you,"

"Alvarez told me he went on bovishly. the little part you played in puttin' 1on to Mario so quick. Without his co-fession in a hurry I'd have been on the boat and God knows when or how." I caught my hands. "I could say a lot about a lot of things but I'm only goin' to a you this," his deep blue eyes looking you this," his deep blue eyes looki anxiously into mine: "Were you fool that day in the jail when you said-y 1

"No," I said as bravely as I could. wasn't fooling.'

"I want you to know," stumbled the befrom the States, "I feel that—I feel that way, too.

Tahiti can be kind. There is no plactike it in the world, we think, the seventh player and I, for a honeymoon.

What About Yours?

Prize Winners for the August Letters of Griticism

First Prize \$25.00 Maude Sumner Smith, Omaha, Nebr.

Second Prize—\$10.00 Gwynnth Jane Gibson, San Diego, Calif.

Third Prize-\$5.00 Laura A. Scott, Cleveland, Ohio.

Have you written yours? The above prizes hold good for this issue. Write us what you think of it.

The Little Tin God

[Continued from page 41]

the others. And then they all laughed. "There, dear," soothed Larry Marsh. "You just have a nice little cry. It relieves the heart so. We understand."

the heart so. We understand."
This from Larry Marsh, who was not only the mildest creature in the world but generally quite out of things when

it came to repartee!

But the hardest blow of all, as they sang in the army, was to have to face the little tin god every day. You see, there was no help for me. I couldn't transfer to another prof; I needed this course. If I cut. I would lose credit, as the term was And I could not only just beginning. afford to lose credit.

There is a general belief that defiance is the result of a certain hardness of heart. I do not believe this to be true. I know in my case it was not. That rebellious streak in me signified no companion streak of indifference. Underneath it all, I was as sensitive as any eighteen year old girl, and every lesson in Prof. Banks' room was a period of exquisite torture.

Not that he ever made any reference in word or look to the affair. Even though begrudged him a kind thought, I had to grant him that much. He behaved as if nothing had happened. It was the attitude of the class that made it all so hard was under constant surveillance, that bautering sort of surveillance which is not meant in an evil way, but which has an evil effect. It goaded me, until I came

to the conclusion that only by further mocking the professor in public could I convince everybody that I hadn't the least spark of feeling for hun.

One day, about a week after this episode, I got to class rather early, and quite by accident, was the first to arrive. Prof. Banks was working at his desk. I greeted him decisively, and scarcely waiting for his answer, strolled toward a window, which commanded a view of the whole Almost immediately, a long campus.

shadow enveloped me. Looking up, I found my enemy leaning again t the wall and looking down at me. lu

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This time his gray eyes were quizzical, and seemed extraordinarily clear against his weather-browned skin.
"I'm sorry, Miss Dane," he said simply

If only there were an audience to this! 'About what?" I hedged.

"About last week.

Something inside me smiled serenely. I was going to draw the last drop of sweet revenge from this conversation. "What revenge from this conversation, are you sorry for?"

"For having made a mistake.

how I thought you had a sense of humor. suddenly lapsing into that note of raillery.

"And may I know what brought you to this erroneous conclusion?" I asked in turn, with deliberate iciness.
"I'd been watching you," came the un-

expected reply.

It seemed a positive affront that he should have dared to do so. "You might direct your scientific investigations where they would be more greatly appreciated," I retorted hotly.

DID I say it was scientific investiga-tion?" he laughed back. "I'm not al-ways the scientist. You know sometimes ways the scientist. I'm human, too.'

"How condescending of you to admit it!" The class, finding us in this attitude of intimate conversation drew its own con Youth feels intensely, and I felt then that I would have given a precious month of my life rather than meet their questions. They were so wild to hear what he said, that they could scarcely wait to get out of earshot of his room.

"He apologized to you?" the girls gasped.

"He said he was sorry," I explained.

"He said he was sorry," I explained, begging the issue a bit, as girls will do,

in order to re-establish my supremacy.
"I call that decent," rumbled Bill. in that outspoken way of his. "He didn't have much to apologize for, believe me."
"He certainly did!" I reminded him.
"For eavesdropping. Isn't that enough?"
"Oh, I don't know," mused Edith, who

"Oh, I don't know," mused Edith, who seemed to be taking Bill's part with suspicious frequency. "After all, he had the right to stand in his own doorway."

"The king can do no wrong," I mocked. "But if I felt that way about him, would I make a monkey of him in public?"

"You didn't," said Edith, pointedly.

"You just wait—and watch," I promised them. "I'll even give you a hint. Next week—during lecture period."

I knew they would all be keyed for the event, which, I felt convinced, would be the perfect knockout. Once a week one

the perfect knockout. Once a week one member of the class was expected to write member of the class was expected to write and read a paper on some special subject assigned the week before. These assignments were definite. That is, one always knew just who would be called upon to read her paper. My turn fell upon that very next lecture period, and I had a tricky little plan whereby I meant to destroy another tradition that hung over Prof. Banks. Prof. Banks.

SUPPOSE I ought to tell you what that tradition was. He was considered fool-proof, a trait which gained him additional secret admiration. He was absotional secret admiration. He was absolutely impervious to the usual student tricks. You couldn't even divert his attention from the lesson to another subject, a tavorite undergrad stunt when the class was unprepared. Wise in the ways of students—but I was going to outwit that wisdom, not by attempting the same old tricks. They were not spectacular enough.

The day came. "I believe Miss Dane is

The day came. "I believe Miss Dane is on the program," Prof. Banks announced. As I arose, I could feel the tensity about me. Leisurely, I turned the pages of my notebook, until, obviously, I reached the proper one. Then I began to read, smoothly as one does from a written page.

The tensity relaxed. After all what I read was coherent and scientific. They imagined I was going to write some nonsense and read it off. Inwardly I smiled. My moment was coming.

At a point halfway through, the professor stopped me. "Would you mind reading that paragraph again, Miss Dane? It puts the whole matter concisely."

I was, and still am ready to swear that not a suggestion of panic was visible in my face. Only I had to make a supreme effort of memory to comply with his request, but I said, "I'll be glad to," and repeated the paragraph.

It was customary for the class to applaud at the end of these readings. stopped, a sincere burst of appreciation greeted me. Prof. Banks was looking at me queerly. Now for the moment—and to my complete gratification—he played

into my hands.

"Splendidly written, Miss Dane," he said. "I think it might be of general interest to other courses. Would you care to let me file it in the science library?"

He stretched out his hand. Up went my head. I turned the book out toward the class so they could see that the pages were blank!

"I can't very well give it to you," I laughed. "There isn't anything to give, not a word written on the page. I made

it up as I went along."

Wise in the ways of students, was he? The class sat aghast at my audacity. Like Peter Pan, I wanted to crow at my own cleverness. The dropping of the proverbial pin would have sounded like the fall of a crowbar in that silence. The little tin god had fallen into my trap. But the little tin god did not seem aware of this Triumphantly I searched his face for verbial pin would have sounded like the fall of a crowbar in that silence. The little tin god had fallen into my trap. But the little tin god did not seem aware of this. Triumphantly I searched his face for signs of anger or discomfort.

"I know it," he said calmly. "That was received the contrasion and scheming, the secret heart-ache and anticipation caused by "The Follies of Engagement" can hardly be imagined. And I, no less than the rest, was eager to get in, though far be it from me to enter by the usual means.

So, as I say, standing before the poster, a way to kill two birds with one stone

why I asked you to repeat. But you see your memory is not as good as mine. You didn't repeat accurately, thereby confirm-

ing my suspicion."

A shout of barbaric laughter exploded into my face, the kind of shout one hears when the home team steals a touchdown from the visiting eleven. Quickly, cleverly, in a flash, the professor had again swung the pendulum in his favor. He had known that I was bluffing, and let me keep on just to make my humiliation greater. In-stead of tearing down his pedestal I was adding to it, stone by stone.

Again his laughing, teasing eyes maddened me. I meant to show him that I had a sense of humor, and I managed to

save my face by joining in the laughter, however much it hurt.

And it did hurt. What was there in this man that enabled him to come out on top whatever the odds? Why did I let him hurt me? What power did he possess hurt me? What power did he possess whereby he could hurt me?

Anger and chagrin consumed me. In the period of forced truce which followed, I suffered more keenly simply because 1 could not haul down my colors. People do not realize that the road of rebellion is a lonely one. It leads to isolation. I had many friends but no confidente. I had my pick of escorts but no companion among them. Pride stood in my way. The mere thought that a man had bested

me was enough to insure a sleepless night.

I had been so sure that this strategy would work that I had made no plans beyond it. Shortly before Thanksgiving, the posters went up for "The Follies of Engagement," and, as I stood reading one, what I believed to be the inspiration of the

century came to me.

This was an annual student performance given exclusively by and for engaged co-eds and their fiancés. It was reputed to be the cleverest, wittiest, most sparkling entertainment of the year, consisting largely of satire on the behavior and problems of engaged couples. So secret was the whole affair, that, despite the presence of co-eds in the audience, no complete story of the doings ever leaked out. In fact, just enough was told in snatches to arouse the curiosity of those who were not engaged.

It was really the only affair, including the Faculty Frolic, that couldn't be crashed. I had tried the year before, and had actually got in and found a seat, when two amazons on 'varsity basketball lifted me up and dumped me in a snow-bank out-

IN ORDER to get an invitation for her-self and her fiancé, a girl had to report her engagement to a committee, one month before the performance. All the bona fide brides who managed the evening did not intend to be fooled. It was all very formal and mysterious, and therefore vastly excit-ing. Yet, even with all these precautions, there was a heavy traffic in campus engage-ments around this time. Of course, the boys were just as wild to see the show too, and they gladly offered themselves as temporary fiances in order to gratify their curiosity. The most oddly assorted couples were constantly announcing their engage-ments, only to become estranged after the performance. Fred laughingly hinted more than once that I would confer a great favor on him by accepting his mother's ring, returnable any time I chose. Edith and Bill Kirk went about, conspicuously whispering in corners.

Really, the confusion and scheming, the



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Peggy Shows How.

Peggy Baxer was not what one would call good looking. Somehow, folks thought her slow, slow of thought, slow of action.

Today however, Peggy was reborn. She was good to look at and because she knew this, she had confidence to herself. She was far from slow of thought or of

Peg, you are lovely and lively today," said Alice.
What has come over you? That gown is wonderful.
It fits perfectly and the coloring is just right for your type. And you, yourself, are bright as a new dollar."

lar."
It's all in this dress. I love it. I feel like new it. And think girls, I made it myself at a cost of v four dollars."
Made it? What do you mean? Surely you didn't

Yes. I designed it and I made it myself. Otherse, I could not afford to have it."

Why Peg, I didn't know you could design and make dresses."

Why Peg, I didn't know you could design and make dresses."

I couldn't. But fortunately I read of a wonderful school that comes right into your own home, so that during your spare moments you can learn how. It's exceedingly fascinating, to see the garments, made during the instruction come into being before your yes out of practically nothing. And the joy of wearing them, knowing that you, yourself, created them. Why girls," Peggy went on, "I can now have three beautiful perfectly fitted and specially designed dresses for the money I formerly paid for one. On this one dress alone, I saved several times the cost of the intruction.

"Over 21,000 women have taken this instruction.
You girls ought to take it up. Why don't you? It is nnecessary to have sewing experience and you saw zive as much or as little time to the work as you

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Many who have taken this training have opened Gown Parlors in their own homes, or elsewhere, and because of their special training have quickly built up a most desirable clientele. Gown and Costume Desping and Creating is probably the best paying vocation now open to women and girls.

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Cown and Costume Designing and Making.

presented itself. The old fairy godmothers had nothing on me. "No sooner said than done," was their motto. Mine was "No sooner thought than done." Indeed, as you will see, I scarcely even thought about the exact way in which it would enfuriate the little tin god. It was a piece of impulsive deviltry that appealed to me.

I went straight away to the student lounge where the committee was meeting, and promptly registered my engagement to -Prof. Peter Banks!

The committee of three sat petrified. "No!" they chorused in complete amaze-

'You'll keep it a secret, won't you?' begged in pretended embarrassment. "I don't even think Peter will come to the Follies with me. You see-well-there Follies with me. You see-well-there are personal reasons for not announcing it just yet. Only he wanted me to come. He said he was sure you could be trusted."

"But you lucky girl!" cried Mary Jansen, a soph who knew me.
"I think I am," with proper modesty.
"Why, you've broken a million hearts! Nobody ever suspected it!"
"They all had the same chance," I pointed out.
Of course the

Of course they believed me because they could never susper me of such supreme impudence, and although they swore secrecy, I knew that the news was too electrifying for them to keep any such promise.

Slowly, by hints and whispers thrown out after taps, my engagement to Peter Banks would trickle out. What a joke—what a joke on him!

Only alas, I reckoned without my host. That night, at eight-thirty, a little frosh who roomed in Carter Hall knocked at my door. She came with a message from Miss Cody, the dorm prof. There was a visitor to see me in the reception room. Who was it? A gentleman, but Miss Cody didn't give her the name.

Certainly in my wildest dreams I could never have imagined anything so fantastic as the truth. Prof. Banks came forward to greet me! Not the man I knew, in Not the man I knew, in tweeds and old army hat, but a different Banks, perfectly groomed and gracious, in dignified dinner clothes. A velour hat and cane lay on the table.

Even then I never suspected the nature of his visit, until suddenly he seized both my hands and held them tightly. Truly,

I thought he had gone mad.

"Are you crazy?" I said in alarm, freeing myself. "What are you doing?" ing myself.

GUESS I am a little mad," he teased. "I've just heard the wonderful news of our engagement.'

I still do not know why the roof did not fall in and kill me. I wanted it to. prayed for it. Psychologists say that every criminal has a weak spot by which he be-trays himself. This was my weak spot—

trays himself. This was my weak spot—that I did not forsee any such contingency. "Who told you?" I demanded in alarm. "I was mortified that another should have had to tell me." he returned. "Who told you?" I insisted, stamping my foot petulantly.

The committee came to verify the report." "Oh, they didn't! They couldn't!

"How else would I have known? Aren't ou going to ask me to sit down, Louella?

I suppose I may call you that."
"Sit down on a hundred chairs if you want to," I snapped. Relentless fingers seemed to be gripping my throat.

I've brought you a gift," he went on nonchalantly, searching around in his pockets. "Oh-here it is. A dusky tribal queen in Central Africa once gave it to me as a betrothal gift for my pale-faced bride.'
He came very close. Even in such He came very close.

formal attire there was about him an atmosphere of the woods, of dried pine needles and fresh cut young birches could not help noticing this, though resented it. On his outstretched palm he held an unset diamond, square cut, small, but with such startling brilliancy imprisoned in its clear depths that one could almost believe the stone to be possessed of some mystic, primitive power.

In a frenzy, I whisked the rare stone of his palm into a far corner of the room. "I'm not your pale-face bride," I cried

childishly.

YOU'RE certainly not pale-faced," he laughed, regarding my flushed cheeks

"But you musn't treat my gifts that way. You hurt my feelings. It isn't fair."

"All is fair in love and war," I quoted Peter Banks straightened. His eye compelled my gaze. With a queer tightening about my heart I realized that he was mostlying like the diamond brilliant with something like the diamond, brilliant, with a sort of primitive compelling power hid den in the depths of his nature. Almost, I was afraid of him, and that in turn seemed to shake my self-confidence, did not mean to let him see this.

"Well-which is it? Love or war? Or

both perhaps? "I could slap you for that," I caid between clenched teeth.

"If you ever did, I would drag you around by every dark hair on your head, was his rejoinder.

You wouldn't dare!"

"Would you like to test it?"

"Why didn't you deny the engagement?"
"Why should I. I'm quite satisfied. "Why should I. I'm quite satisfied. Extremely satisfied. In fact, Louella, I'm pleased as Punch."

Of course he did not mean a word he id. All the time that look of banter lurked in his eyes, and his lips curled ever so slightly with secret smiles.
Words escaped me. "Oh, how I hate

Words escaped me. "Oh, how I hate you!"
"Fine," he agreed. "It shows I am making arounds."

ing progress.' "Haven't you any honor?" I thought I could prick him to anger. "Why don't you

"I repeat—why should I?"

"It isn't true."

"You said it was."

"That has nothing to do with it," I hedged.

"It has everything to do with it. The campus would stamp you as a love-sick girl who tried to trap me into an engage-ment."

I wonder now if my jaw dropped. I lt as if it ought to. I tell you I was felt as if it ought to. shocked, frozen. A whole lifetime of recklessness culminated in this one terrible moment. Louella Dane—love-sick! Louella Dane—trapping a man into an engagement!

"You little tin god," I said to him.
"You think the whole world is mad about

you. They know me too well."
"Oh, I know why you did it," he assured me; "to make a laughing stock of me. Nobody else would believe it. There's a lot you must learn about mob psychology. my dear Louella."

You didn't have to defend my honor.

"If you don't know how to guard it, another must do it for you."

While I fought for my very life, I new he was right. I had delivered myknew he was right. I had delivered myself into his hands. Why had I not looked about me first? Why had I not planned more carefully? What a fool I was to give him the victory. I think it was this knowledge that broke my resistance. I had to get out of it. Perhaps one desperate appeal.

I no longer cared if the tears rose. Bitterness, and a girlish dread of the consequences of my own act sent the very heart of me to my lips. When I approached, he rose. We stood about a foot apart. Quite unconsciously I clasped my hands, and cited my head to look into his eyes. The expression in them encouraged me.

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was just, and manly. He must listen. "Professor Banks," I began brokenly. "Couldn't we let it rest for a week. And then—you—oh, please, please. Couldn't you let it be known that we had quarreled? I've been punished for my silliness."
His fingers moved restlessly. Once he

lifted his arms, but dropped them hurriedly. Again that sense of some primitive power seemed to emanate from him. I thought

seemed to emanate from him. I thought he was softening.

Then he chuckled. "What? Before the Follies? I should say not. I haven't known any of the joys of engagement but I should, at least, like to see some of the follies. I'm curious to go, too. No, my dear, you must consider yourself engaged." He bowed. "Peter Banks, your humble servant."

He gathered up his hat and cane. I stood.

He gathered up his hat and cane. I stood in the centre of the room, dazed. At the

door he turned.
"Louella," he said soberly. "What makes you do such—such unworthy things?"
"You!" I bit out. "You little clay idol."

and I ran from the room, brushing by him. Later I remembered the diamond.

Later I remembered the diamond. It seemed unsafe to leave it around, and I crept downstairs again. Miss Cody, the dorm proctor, found me in the reception room, staring at the brilliant stone. She was a history teacher, a white haired woman with a very young face, and sad lines about her mouth.

"What a beautiful jewel," she said softly. "For your ring?"

That was the last straw. She knew. Everybody knew. I flung my arms about her neck and cried myself into exhaustion. Fulfilling her role of Mother to Carter Hall, she whispered her comfort, no doubt believing that I shed tears of joy. The next morning I put the diamond into an envelope and left it in the professor's mailbox.

That the few weeks before the Follies were a period of misery, I need hardly say. I would gladly have presented him as a gift to any one of the envious girls who followed the details of our engagement with such avid curiosity. The night of "The Follies of Engagement" stands out as a perfect nightmare, in which my unwanted fiancé was the monster and I the victim. When we got out, I made my first voluntary remark.

"I don't care to go to the dance," I said,

anticipating a protest on his part.

"Neither do I," he retorted shortly.

At the dorm gates I turned. I did not want him to go a step further.

"I believe this ends the whole affair," I

"I hope so," he said fervently.

Things which defy explanation occasionally happen to us. Now that he agreed with me, his lack of chivalry piqued me.

IF THAT'S the way you felt about it all along, you needn't have troubled yourself to defend my honor," I told him sarcastically.
"Do you know what's the matter with you?"

"If there is anything the matter, I don't want to hear it from you.

He seized my wrist and drew within range of the light under the stone arch. Indeed, he almost jerked me over. There was a challenge in his eyes, and something adamant about his chin. I thought of the diamond, and somehow grew afraid.

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You're a spoiled darling. always had your way because people don't



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want to argue with you, not because you were so irresistible. When I came to you that day it was because I really believed you were a companionable person. to be friends with you, and tease you a bit, perhaps punish you a bit, even

clash in personal encounter. But now?
"Oh—I'm hurting your feelings, am I?"
he swept on. "That's what you need. To have your feelings ground underfoot as you are always grinding the feelings of others. If this is a woman's privilege, I don't want to have anything to do with women. Only the sort of paper doll you think I am would consent to being blown about by your eternal whims. Selfishness-that's what it is. You have no sympathy, no understanding. I'm glad I'm through with your selfishness. I'm glad I don't have to talk to you, or see you, or cater to your fancies.

He left me standing there under the azing light. Every word had burned blazing light. into my soul, tearing and destroying as it went. In the distance I could see him still walking-with that peculiar stride.

OOD riddance," I thought, habit rising strong within me, but a feeling of stunned bewilderment belied the words.

I went about dazed, like a person with no object in life. I did not know what to do next.

Studiously I avoided Professor Banks, difficult as that was in class. He ignored me, too, even more pointedly. I made no explanations to my friends. In fact, I fled from their questioning eyes, and knowing smiles. A habit of moody silence, and a desire to be alone were always with me, and I yielded to both as often as was possible, nursing my humiliation in secret.

Such were my feelings, when, in the spring of the year, the whole situation came to a swift, unforeseen culmination. repeat "unforeseeu," for in spite of all stories, the professor and I did not start out together for the woods. We met out together for the woods. accidentally.

You see, on Friday afternoons, instead of holding regular class, Prof. Banks took us out to the woods for first-hand study. That is, he did not lead us out two by two like a ladies' seminary. We separated into smaller groups, scattered through wood and field, collected specimens, and returned to a previously designated meeting place to discuss our findings.

That Friday afternoon, urged by this craving to be alone. I began to edge away from my own group, until, at last, I was

Almost as if I were being chased, sped through the solitary woods, drinking in the fragrance of early spring. much friendlier trees seemed than people; how inviting the moss covered stones and unexpected brooks! Presently something stirred in the bushes. Out stepped Peter

your partner?" he asked "Where's rather gruffly.

"I haven't any, and don't intend to have

Only an experienced woodsman ought to get in here alone.

I guess I can take care of myself." He fell into step beside me. The path

was wide at that point.
"You needn't trouble yourself to keep with me, I said.

"Until the class reassembles and is dismissed. I am responsible for your safe return. You are still under my jurisdic-

"We're at it again," I thought with bit-terness, but made no answer.

Hostile silence fell between us. ward we went into the deepening gloom, each carrying a burden of resentment. intervals one or the other of us stopped to pick something. Our feet sank deeper

and deeper into the carpet of last year's leaves. The trail narrowed to a one man Then we came to a fork,

He examined the tree at the fork and chose the left road. I am sure that that was where we made the error. Of course, the right branch might not have led anywhere, either. It would not be fair to blame him. Even an experienced explorer can make a mistake. But certainly the left branch just faded out, and before we knew

what had happened, we were lost.

It was then five o'clock. We should have been at the North Gate to meet the rest, and I could not help wondering what the others must be thinking. Anyone familiar with the woods knows how easy it is to get off the path. Prof. Banks did not think it at all unusual, and assured me, that, as long as there was daylight, we could extricate ourselves from the labyrinth. But how long could the feeble light Gradually, yet not imperceptibly, night was lowering gray gauze curtains between the trees. As we beat about trying to regain our sense of direction, swift darkness descended, blotting out the universe. I could not even see Prof. Banks.

Well-no account of detail will alter a fact. We were lost. A man and a girl who hated each other, marooned in a vast, mysterious, frightening, invisible vorld of blackness. The pounding of my heart against my ribs almost choked me.

What are we going to do?" I demanded defiantly, thankful that he could not see distress.

"Stay here 'till dawn," he replied through the velvet curtain that separated us. "We can't!"

"That's the law of the woods," His voice rang out authoritatively. "When

overtaken by darkness, wait for dawn."
"Couldn't we light a beacon?" I persisted, refusing to face any such necessity.

"No match. I never smoke in the woods. Anyway, dew has fallen. We'd never get

The darkness was so thick, truly, it seemed to stir when he spoke. It was not to argue with an unseen adversary

"What do you suppose the Dean and the President will say? It's a fine mess."
"Well—" he answered. "We were once engaged. They won't say anything. "That's all you know about the Dean," I retorted. "Oh, we've got to do something to thing the company of the co

thing, do something, I tell you."
"Yes, find a nice comfortable log and sit on it all right," he said dryly. "Only you must give me your hand, Miss Dane. You see, there's a precipice ahead of us."

FTER all, I was unversed in such A FIER all, I was unversed in the matters, and any possibility of danger had never entered my calculations. At his last words a violent internal shudder seized Until that moment, I could not be-lieve we were really lost. We were just two figures groping around on a dark stage with property trees set at hazardous angles. Any moment, the electrician would flood the stage with light-

There's a precipice ahead of us!" The words echoed in my ears, thrusting reality before me. Inkiness enveloped us, but there are degrees of blackness, too, and just ahead yawned a blacker cavity, like a

mouth waiting to devour us.
"How do you know?" I challenged, for

want of anything else to say.
"I can tell by the way our words carry. Then, too, some people have a sixth sense for detecting such things. Horses have it, Would you like me to prove it to you I'll throw a stone over the edge. count the number of seconds before it hits

I heard a faint rustling, as, no doubt, he bent to pick up a stone. My very life seemed to depend on the count. I held my







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breath in pain, until, at the twelfth second, a faint sound of impact floated up. A sigh of relief escaped me.

"That's-hm-that's pretty deep," re-

marked my companion.

The thud of that stone on the bottom beat in my temples. It emphasized our isolation and heightened that sense of loneliness I had been trying to repulse. Now it enveloped me. I dared not speak. A sob had lodged in my throat, and I knew that to move my lips meant to betray

myself Will you give me your hand?" he reneated.

We groped toward each other. A hand emerged from nothingness and found mine. That hand gave me the first sense of his physical presence, and much as I scorned any such support, the touch of his cool, firm fingers momentarily restored me.

Stumbling, yet exercising extreme caution, we located a log and gratefully sank down upon it. I felt tense, strained with the effort. Gradually, my eyes grew accustomed to the darkness and objects began to materialize. The professor was now a dim outline, just a form behind heavy draperies. Being lost in the woods at night is an experience of illusions. trees assume distorted shapes, now larger, now smaller, now emerging from the vacuum, now swallowed by it. The murmur of leaves is magnified. Time ceases in its march.

Then came the illusion of voices. We began to "Halloa!" hoping to attract athoping to attract at-Perhaps they had tention in the valley. already missed us and would start out.
The sounds rolled mournfully down the sides of the pit. The chasm seemed to call back to us.

I DOUBT whether one who has never been lost in the woods at night can appreciate the wild thrill, the fearful exultation of hearing an answer to one's call for rescue. At the first sound I did not believe At the second, I jumped my own senses. up, unmindful of the precipice.

But the professor was schooled, and he

jerked me back by the arm.
"You're hurting me!" I cried incensed. "I have to. What are you trying to do? Commit suicide? How do you expect them to find us if you jump around?"
"Then you heard it, too?"
"Yes," sternly, I did not understand the

expression in his voice.

shall never forget the period that followed. I was tired, exhausted, cold, yet I found strength to draw breath and shout. They came nearer. Once they could have been no more than fifty yards from us. "Why don't they come?" I whispered

The professor still held my frantically.

Suddenly he relaxed the pressure. I had a strange feeling that he stroked my hand. "Louella, try to compose yourself," he said very gently, "and try to understand what I am going to say. They will stand what I am going to say. They will not find us tonight. Their voices travel up to us but ours do not reach up to them. The wind is against us.

Mocking, siren strains seem to rise from the depths of the pit. He was right. The was against us. Everything was against us.

Later, Peter Banks buttoned his coat about me. "Remember, I'm hardened to this," he said huskily, anticipating resistance.

But what was rebellion to me now? What was anything? I was so tired, so cold, so miserable. Nothing mattered—my college course, my medical career. I was so tired, so Probably I would be expelled, in spite of

what he said. I was sorry for my parents.

His coat felt warm and pleasant.

Mingled with the odor of tobacco, I detected that other fragrance, of pine-



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French Girls

Cultivate their beauty

By Edna Wallace Hopper

I have just returned from Paris. It was my 34th trip in a 40 year search for the utmost in beauty helps.

More than ever I was impressed with the average beauty of French girls, and the youth of French matrons. They live where science studies beauty. And where I found the beauty helps which gave me

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needles, and fresh flowing birch sap. made me long for steaming hot coffee, and own room in Carter Hall, and sleep.

The first faint streak of gray meant blessed relief. The clear, solitary notes of awakening birds stabbed me to the quick.
"Look!" said my companion, pointing

before us.

There lay revealed the greatest illusion of all. For, the log on which we sat all night was not at the edge of a cliff, but on the peak of a beautiful knoll, its gently sloping sides so thickly carpeted with moss that the sound of our rolling stone was swallowed! Fascinated, incredulous, we watched the scene. Nature had indeed enjoyed her little joke at our expense.

Then I went to pieces, not with great convulsive sobs, but with quiet brimming tears that I could no longer control. had no desire to control them, no pride left in keeping up a show of courage. The dawning world reeled and danced

through that mist of tears.

I felt my partner chaffing my hands. "Louella, I want to say something to you, but I do not know how to begin. I think you can help me."

Mute grief twisted my soul. If only I could have burst out. Quietly, against my volition the tears continued to come. "What—is it—you want to say?"

"I want to ask you to marry me, only I do not know how. Help me—please," he

added whimsically.

The embers of my old self glowed for a second. "Then you may consider your own words the proposal and my words

the re—"
"Louella—don't! Dear, foolish girl. I love you."

"Haven't I suffered enough torture tonight. Oh, why do you mock me?' I do love you.

"You say that because you want to save from expulsion. But I won't let you humiliate me. I won't marry you to get out of a difficult situation."

"I love you," he repeated doggedly, as if the mere repetition would convince me.

"After what you said that night?"

"No—before what I said." He leaned

very close to me. In his face were lines of suffering but in his eyes a disconcerting tenderne

"Louella, couldn't you guess that I loved you that first night I came to you? I was hoping that your little joke might not be a joke after all. Why, the day I found you impersonating me, I could have carried you off before the whole class. Tantalizing, provoking little gypsy, you were.

fought against the warmth that emanated from him, against the tensity of his voice, against that queer, primitive power I had felt before.

"And I suppose that accounts for the fine things you thought of me?"

I was disappointed I lost my temper. because I could not make my way to your heart as quickly as I'd planned. I was wrong. I hurt you, and had no right to. If I've seemed like a strutting idol, I haven't meant to. I lost my temper because-well, because I'm a man, I suppose.

DID not see him move, but immediately I felt his strong arms around me, drawing me irresistibly to him.

"I told you once that I'd pull you about by the hairs of your head, if you defied me. And I will. I won't argue with you about love. You've got to feel it. Look into your heart and tell me honestly that you hate me, that you don't love me and never will love me." will love me.

I looked into my heart, and there, clearly as in a mirror, I saw the little tin god enshrined. He was right. One must feel

"Oh, Peter, Peter," I sobbed. "Take me

with you, wherever you go, always."

He cradled me in his arms. "Dear little girl." With his kisses, he banished not girl." With his kisses, he banished not only that night of terror, but all that had The primitive power stood between us. within him was just love, and I recognized it now in all its poignancy and beauty.

By some chance there was no commence-ment bride that June. So in order to keep alive the happy custom of having a wedding in the chapel on the afternoon of Commencement Day, Peter and I took the place of the usual senior couple.



My Friend's Wife

[Continued from page 51]

was streaming through the ward. But day-light lends courage. A crock, was I? I'd show 'em . .

A little wire pulling. A little wrangling. little: "I'm still good for service, sir," A little: and I was allowed to retain my uniform. Funny how a man becomes attached to the service—and then magic words: "They need men out in German East Africa. The show is over there, more or less, according to Smuts, but there's still work to be done. Guess it's sort of a picnic, but still work. Want to go?

DID I want to go! I'd have gone to the ends of the earth. Then suddenly, when it was all arranged, I cabled—guardedly to soothe the soul of his imperial highness, the Censor—to Jim: "Hope to see you soon!"

I had never believed that a man's heart

could sing, but mine did as I visioned meeting old Jim again, and Sybil. They would not mind the empty sleeve and my awk-wardness occasioned thereby . . . I did not realize that German East and British East during the war were far apart.

But in my case they didn't prove to be by Though I landed at Dar-es-Salaam, fascinated by the sight of the Kovinia, which the Germans had sunk ineffectually to block the bottle-necked harbor, thrilled

it the next morning when I awoke as dawn by the sight of the white buildings and the palm ringed curving shore and the hospital on the north, fully expecting to be shipped from there to some destination south, Kilwa or Lindi, or the Ruvuma, there were orders awaiting me. I was directed to proceed at once to—in Uganda. And were Jim and Sybil!

If I got squiffy that night in the detail camp under the palms to the south of the town at the mess of some gallant gentle-men, who would blame? One of them, a man after my own heart, helped me down the steep cliff to the sandy stretch of shore where the waves broke restlessly, squatted

beside me and helped me to light a pipe.
"To think," said I, viewing the moonlight on the water, dark except for the green and red lights of a hospital ship at anchor, "that in a world such as this there can be such a thing as war."

"Allah is Allah, and Mahomet is his prophet!" said my companion, a young subaltern who had earned his spurs, as a livid sear across his face showed. He

was as drunk as I . . .

Presently he rose to his feet. "It's getting late," he announced with the air of he announced with the air of a discovery. "I'll have to be one making a discovery. toddling. Got to march off at five, down the line. Feel like turning in?"

"No? All right, old bean! Cheerio. Don't mind if I leave you now, do you?"

"Everything all right?" "Absobloodylutely "Then, good-night."

"Good-night, and-thanks."

He held out his hand. I took it. Suddenly he pointed to the little purple and white ribbon on my breast. "Lucky devil," said he-I learned afterwards he was only twenty-one—"I wish I could get one. Then he was gone, clambering up the cliff with the agility picked up from his training in the open country.

When he disappeared I fingered my empty sleeve. The soft wind blowing across the water and rustling the palms was waking forgotten memories in me. I thought of a certain dance, and a girl, a girl with large dark eyes and a piquant face surmounted by masses of coal black

hair.

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"Sybil!" I called, as the vision conjured

up became almost real.

The small waves lapping the shore a little below my feet mocked my cry . . . I arose and turned in about one o'clock.

In the fashion of sinners, I slept the sleep of the just . . .

MY GOD! If it isn't old Drake!" glad cry, a welcoming one, and Jim and I shaking each other's hands, with mute askaris and Goanese clerks looking on in amazement.

"When and how did you get out? Why are you here? How long are you be with us? What are you doing How long are you going to then, the inevitable notice of my left arm

and a sudden silencing of exuberance.
"Old man, I'm sorry."
"I'm not!" It was a lie. I sought to be flippant. "I was transferred for action in G. E. A." I said. "Last minute orders from Dar-es-Salaam sent me up here. I believe I'm to be stationed in this place for a while deilling recognity or the Elecfor a while drilling recruits or the like— a one-armed man isn't much use—and generally enjoying myself."

"You must come up to the bungalow at once and see Sybil. She has never been done talking about you since she met you, announced Jim, who for some reason did not seem to be the same old Jim.

We departed together, he talking and talking, trying to crowd into a few moments the conversation of years. .\ rickshaw us swiftly to his bungalow, a low rambling affair shrouded with bougainvillea Sybil, as adorable as ever, was standing Sybil, as adorable as ever, was standing to greet him. When she and sweet with the scent of tropic flowers standing on the verandah to greet him. W saw me: "Oh! Drake!" she cried.

As I said in the beginning, no man had any conception of what being in the army

might mean to him.

The minute I set eyes on Sybil I knew I should never have come. The feelings she had awakened in me the night of the dance when I had first seen her awoke tempestuously, the sudden love which had flamed only to die at the announcement that she was engaged to Jim, my best friend, leaped up again, and I knew that all my reasonings, all my endeavors to forget, all that had happened since, even the war and my wounds, had made no difference, and I loved her with all my heart and all my soul . . . But:
"How do you do?" I said calmly.

thus my training stood me good stead.

During dinner we chatted of many It was a merry meal with Jim, good old Jim, turning the conversation this way and that with obvious endeavors to divert my mind from the fact that I was a maimed man . . . He did not notice the glances which passed between Sybil and

God knows I never intended to be disloyal. But I was disloyal to Jim that night. When he shook hands with me as I climbed into my rickshaw to be driven to my quarters I felt like a cad, for I knew that I loved his wife, and I knew that she no longer loved him.

I saw them both often afterwards, every I discovered that my military duties -I was really on a pensioneer's job-gave

me much free time.

"Run up to the bungalow any time you're ce." Jim had said. "It's pretty lonesome irec," Jim had said. "It's pretty lonesome for Sybil." And she urged me to come ... I know I shouldn't have accepted the invitation of them both. But the Post was small. It was impossible to stay away But the Post without explanations. There were many times when I was with Sybil alone. A man can play with fire as well as a

woman. I was playing with fire. Seated on the verandah of an afternoon with Sybil, exquisite in a soft clinging frock which revealed the rounded curves of her supple body, felt mad flames in my heart. Still I played the game. She was my friend's

I don't know how it began, but one night Jim got woefully drunk at the club. He was almost carried home by his "boy" and put to bed. "I'd better be toddling off now," I said to Sybil, trying not to notice "I'd better be toddling off

the big tears in her eyes.
"Don't go!" she begge
like that. It's one of th 'Don't go!' she begged. "Jim's often e that. It's one of the things—" 'One of the things?" What did she

mean?

"Oh, Drake! Oh, Drake, dear!"

The next second she was sobbing on my shoulder and I was clumsily trying to comfort her.

When she was calmer I left. got to get away from this damn place. told myself. But I could not go. I was "in the army" and I had to stay.

I tried keeping away from the bungalow, at I couldn't. I thought of fleeing the but I couldn't. I thought of fleeing the country. But that was out of the ques-And I was madly in love-with

my best friend's wife. She knew it, Sybil did, and she too tried to play the game. But women are weak. I think they're even weaker than men Perhaps it is because in places like this they have less to divert their minds. And

Jim was not helping her.

There was another night when he was almost carried home from the club; a night when he was put to bed and when he was put to bed and Sybii and I were alone on the verandah; a night when she pleaded again, "Don't go! He's often like that. It's one of the things—"And again I asked, my heart throbbing queerly within me. "One of the things?"

But this time she answered. "Oh, you don't know!"

don't know. Drake. You don't know!"
And then again she was cuddled in the

curve of my arm.

YOU don't know." she continued, her voice muffled against the khaki drill lapel of my coat. "He's a weakling, a drunkard, a coward!"

"Hush!" I commanded. "You must not continued.

"Hush!" I commanded. "You must not say that of Jim."

"Must not?" she tore herself from me.

"No," I said, trying to still the tumult in my heart. "He's my friend!"

"Is he your friend now?" She bared her shoulders. They were lined with livid scars, and her back!

"Jim did that!" she said.

I rose to my feet and crushed her in a

I rose to my feet and crushed her in a one-armed embrace. "God in Heaven!" The veins were standing out on my fore-In my heart was the desire to head.

"I love you, Drake," said the girl in my "I truly believe I always did . .

A figure suddenly appeared in the door Jim! I pushed her from me, and turned to him.

He saw the light in my eyes. He raised his hand, a supplicating hand. Wait!"

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I paused. After all, he had been my friend and the habit of years is hard to break.

"I'm all Sybil says," he said quietly.
"I'm worse than that. I've known it for a long time." He hesitated and swayed a long time. slightly as a drunken man sways, or one laboring under some strong emotion. I think I started toward him, but I am not sure. Sybil's hand caught my arm. Jim saw the gesture and smiled wanly. For a second I was sorry for him, but the feeling fled as I remembered that white flesh of the girl beside me marred by his ruthless hands . . . My fist clenched. Again Jim pleaded:

"Wait!" Again I relaxed.
"Thanks," he murmured. Then: have something to say. It—it won't tak long. When you have heard—but—but— It-it won't take His voice grew thick and he seemed to be struggling for words. "I've been a cad and worse. But I'm making reparation now. I've been mad and a fool . . . Drink.
The doctor told me it would get me. He'll swear it did-he's a stout fellow-and

there'll be no trouble. Alcoholic poisoning sounds all right on a death certificate. well, what does it matter? But you Sybil will know I've tried to atone. But, it isn't that altogether. It's the least I can do for her, after all I've done. It's the least I can do for you, old man. You've always played the game old man. He staggered back to his room, swayed-I caught him in my arm.

Three weeks later we buried him in the little English cemetery on the hill. Sybil cried—as women will—when his coffin struck the hard earth. After the interment I led her away-"We've got to make a new start," I said.

* * * *

Sybil placed her arm in mine. "Do you think," she asked, "the world will ever be the same?"

But I was thinking—wondering what it might have meant for Jim if he had been in the army—and I sort of feel even today. after seven years with Sybil, that the war balanced its evil influences with good ones.

The High-Water Mark

[Continued from page 47]

ashore and fight a real man for once."
"Directly, M'sieu!" said the Frenchy, "Directly, M'sieu!" said the Frenchy, and it was the first time I really saw him. He was as big as MacKay, who stood sixfeet-two, and very broad and deep.

He came ashore like a cat after a mouse, and he and MacKay went at one another like two devils. I danced up and down like two devils. and cursed my soul black because I wanted to see a fair fight, and wanted to get a punch at the Frenchy, too. It wasn't a nice, clean bout, either, for they both used rough-house stuff, and plenty of it.

For half an hour the wharf creaked and groaned under their stamping and smashing and falling and getting up. And, what do you think? The Frenchy licked Mac-

THEN the big Frenchmen turned and grinned at me with the two teeth he

had left.

"M'sieu," said he, "that dissolute girl has only weaklings for lovers!" only he didn't say "dissolute" girl. I got that out of a book, because it isn't so plain as what he said. "All her lovers are weaklings!" he taunted me. "But I shall get her what a man is like!" he taunted me. "But I shall get her again, and show her what a man is like!"
"Sit down!" I said, "and get rested. I

give you ten minutes to get your breath!"

I am not so big as MacKay, being only five-foot-ten, nor so broad as the Frenchy. But I am what they call a deep-set man.

"Perhaps, when I am satisfied, I will throw what is left of her to you, M'sieu!" "Are you ready to fight now?" I asked, and he laughed and kicked at me, but I danced back and then in and got in a smash before I lit on my back. I was up again in an instant, and down again, but up again, and then I lost count until I was down and not able to get up.

"Ho!" said the Frenchmen. "That girl needs strong lovers!'

I guess maybe those college guys are right when they say that there is a lot of strength a man never gets hold of until the minute he needs it worst. I needed it then, and it came, and I went for him with murder in my heart.

I grabbed him around the neck and smashed and kicked and maybe I bit him, too, although I fear I forgot that. was panting now, but every now and then I would hear something bust, and I'd think, "Good-by, another rib!" and lash in harder than ever, until I heard a big crash, and

found he was down and me on top of him. So I stamped on his face to loosen what teeth he had left, and then started to get away.

Then I met another bloody wreck, and it was MacKay. He made a pass at me. "Butt into my fight, will you?" he said, and I slammed him down on his back and

I grabbed at a post, because things were going around and around, and my lungs were bleeding because my ribs were busted, but not as bad as I had expected. Then things cleared for a bit, and there was Jenny, looking at me, cold and proud. "So!" she said. "This is how you keep your solemn oath to me?" and went past

and away, and then things got hazy and blurred and then black.

So that is the way of promises! You make 'em, and then you go and bust 'em! I came to, by and by, and where do you think I was? I was in Jenny's own room, laid out on her bed!

I knew it was Jenny's room for there was her father in bed in the room across the hall, sitting up in his night-shirt and

pulling away at his pipe.
"Ho, Buck!" he shouted to me when he saw me trying to sit up. in the world yet!"

But I hurt all over, and my mind was upside down, and I wanted to curse, or laugh, or pray, or cry, or—I don't know what! Then I shouted back at him, because he seemed to be fading into distance.

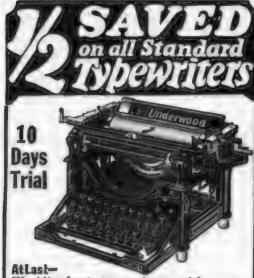
'I-bust-my-oath-all-to-hell! And then a lot of noises and lights busted inside of me and I went back into the blackness.

Out of the darkness a voice came to me. I'd know that voice and hear it in well, it was Jenny's voice, and it was saying, over and over:

"You broke your promise, Buck! You broke your promise—and so did I! So did I, Buck! I love you, dear Buck! I broke my solemn promise—my oath for you—Buck!"

Well, that's about all. The way promises go, you see! Love sort of comes before promises, and a man sees things one way and a woman the other, but they both see straight when it comes to love.

I know, because the blackness rolled away for a bit, and there was Jenny bending over me and crying, and—then she kissed mel



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For the First Time

[Continued from page 28]

who are reading this may think it strange. But . . . Dora and I have no fault to find with old Mother Nature. We have never seen ourselves, or others like us, in any light but the rosy glow of admiration. The Christmas box reached New York

safely, and in return Margaret sent her mother . . . a bracelet. When I saw that I realized of course that the girl didn't know, but Dora only laughed happily and kissed the pretty trinket again and again. "She'll be surprised, won't she?" I

couldn't refrain from asking.

The Princess shrugged her shoulders and I knew then that Dora was satisfied it would be a delightful surprise. Well,

why not?

It was less than a week later that Dora received a telegram from Mr. Norcross, her attorney in New York, who had full charge of Margaret's education, stating that the girl had eloped from the school to be married. It wasn't until the Princess saw the groom's name that she could lift her eyes from the ominous yellow paper, and then she was too excited to speak. When she handed me the message I saw first "Garry Waterbury," and realized that Margaret had married into one of the best families in America. That fa what softened the blow for Dora. That fact some-

Margaret has left Greystone Sensot to be married to Garry Waterbury, second son of J. J. Waterbury of New James agreeable, but J. J. York. Family agreeable, but J. J. has sent son to Honolulu to take care of branch office there

Amos Norcross.

"Well," said Dora at last, torn between pride and disappointment, "Margaret comes of as good stock as the Waterburys. The Ravenwoods were land gentry in England. . . . Married! . The landed My baby! ... Oh, Martin, she isn't my baby any longer!"

When she cried on my shoulder I was

selfishly glad that Margaret had done what she had. But I didn't dare to put my arms around Dora and had to be satisfied to pat her gently on the back, comforting her as best I could.

"Perhaps," I ventured, "you won't want

to quit the business now. With Margaret married and everything, probably

Dora looked up quickly. "That depends," she said.
"On what?" I wanted to know.
And she blushed and dimpled and answered, "Everything depends on my son and daughter, Martin."

THAT night she sent away for about a ton of literature on Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands and I knew what was in her mind.

Margaret wrote to her mother from Chicago, but the letter was a long time in reaching Dora, because they always corresponded through Mr. Norcross' office. Margaret addressed her mother there and the lawyer forwarded the mail to Dora wherever she happened to be showing at Commonsense should have told us that the girl and her husband were coming to California on their way to Hawaii, but when the Princess and I saw them that evening in the crowd at the fair grounds it was as unreal as the tinsel crown which Dora wore on her head.

Here were Margaret and young Waterbury strolling down the Street of All Nations, and there were Dora and I, next each other on our respective platforms, selling ourselves to the crowd. Beside her coronet, Dora wore her salmon pink It stands on its tete
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crèpe de chine with bright trimmings and paste ornaments. Of course in private life Dora's taste in dress was perfect, but on the circus lot the holiday-makers expect the celebrities to be groomed according to their titles. Dora was a princess and she was attired to look the part. Above her head, and on either side of the platform, were gaudy posters announcing the Princess Fedora's history and triumphs, and I remember Harker, her manager, was making an awful din selling her photographs. Twenty-five cents each, and an extra quarter if the Princess autographed her portrait. You'd be surprised to learn how eagerly they are bought by the curious; a very fair part of the Princess' fortune was derived from the sale of her

While I had never seen Margaret Ravenwood, I recognized her instantly from the numerous likenesses which Dora possesses and if that wasn't enough, the girl was wearing a familiar bracelet. Never another like it in the world-oh, there Never wasn't any doubt as to the young woman's identity. Slender, lovely, regal in spite of the banter she exchanged with her husband, Margaret came down the Street of All Nations, pausing with young Waterbury at nearly every exhibit on the way. Jolly Josie, the fat girl, the Indian sword swallower, Naida, the Lily, who is an albino and very pretty, and Joe-Joe, the ape-man. Then came the Princess Fedora ape-man. Then came the Prinand, just beyond, yours truly.

OOKING at Dora, I thought first she was going to turn and run-hide herself until Margaret and Waterbury had passed on down the Street. It was only natural that she should want them to see her in her ridiculous costume, between Joe-Joe and me, just as if she weren't the artiste she is. But—something chained her artiste she is. there and she afterwards said she couldn't have moved a step if her life depended There she stood, white as a corpse, tongue-tied, torn with conflicting passions looking in her daughter's eyes for the first time in sixteen years.

I wonder now how she ever lived through it. There was no kindness, no love on Margaret's face. She stared at the Princess Fedora, never dreaming she was her mother, and would have turned away hadn't Waterbury called her to him.

He was a handsome fellow, tall, broadshouldered, and with delightful manners. As I gazed at him, man to man, for the first time in my thirty-nine years, I sensed . . . regret. For a second I was dissatisfied, caught myself wondering if I had been cheated out of something, if other man would reach heights that would never be able to scale. I shall never know. But for never know. I shall never know. But for a moment I hated this six-footer, this man

who was a man.
"Look, Peg," said young Waterbury, at that moment; "the Princess is quite good-looking. Let her autograph her picture for you.

Gay and gracious Garry was, the two "doing" of them children on a holiday, the fair and circus on the night before their steamer sailed for Honolulu. I wanted to shake his hand for the pleasant things he had said about Dora, but Margaret-Margaret something was again.

She drew back, away from the Princess, and an unmistakable frown gathered be-

tween her lovely eyes. "Come along, Garry," "Come along, Garry," she said to her husband in icy accents, "Really, I don't care for her portrait. I've always detested dwarfs! . . . If you must have the picture, you take it from her, dear. I should faint she ever touched me with her claw.'

So that was that. Dora didn't scream, didn't faint. I don't

know much about the blood that flows in her veins, but the Princess is a thoroughbred, all right. And Margaret Ravenwood -yes -was like her father. With head With head and eyes dry, the Princess Fedora held her ground, carrying-on to closing But she paid for it later, for directly the lights were dimmed and the crowd had gone home, she fainted dead away in my arms.

WHILE Dora was in the hospital, fighting for her life, I wanted to send for Margaret, wanted to force her to acknowledge her mother and give the poor, stricken soul a daughter's care. But Dora wouldn't hear of it.

"If you send for Margaret-for Peg-I'll never speak to you again as long as you live, Martin," she declared. "Margaret must never know! Send for Norcross, Martin. Never mind the fee, tell him I want to see him and I can't come

Fast

Dora remained in the hospital while the lawyer was speeding across the con-tinent and the attention showered upon nurses and doctors must helped some to ease the hurt at her heart. Everyone loved her! When she was on the road to recovery, her room was like a flower garden and she held daily receptions at her bedside, admired, petted, pampered like royalty. And that is the way it had always been. Kings and queens had received Dora and found her a cultured woman and a delightful com-panion. Even Jack Ravenwood, who was five feet seven, had treated his Lilliputian wife as if she were a lovely little doll. No one had ever drawn away, and "detested" her, calling her perfectly formed little hands "claws," until her daughter appeared on the scene.

peared on the scene.
"She didn't know, Martin," Dora sighed,
"If she had pleading for her daughter. "If she had known I was her mother, it would all have been different."

Then let me tell her," I said.

But Dora shook her head. "She called be a—dwarf, Martin," she pointed out ith a wry smile. "Well, I suppose I with a wry smile. "Well, I suppose I am. Only . . . little people sounds so much nicer, so much sweeter, Martin. My mother and father were full size, and Jack was, of course. And my baby—Margaret—Peg, he called her—I'm sure her children will be normal and so I—I'm going to die, Martin. When Norwith a wry smile. arrives, he'll arrange everything. cross My savings go to my daughter, and when she reaches Honolulu she will hear that Too late then to attend my funeral, and Garry—Garry should be able to help her forget her trouble. Margaret loved her mother, Martin; it was the Princess Fedora she—she detested. So her mother's dead, and Princess Fedora goes marching

WAS afraid to put into words the thought which occurred to me then. But I felt deep within me that my old friend was going to stick, and that there was more than a chance of her some day being more than a friend. No, I wasn't glad that things had happened the way they had. I love Dora. And even while I may be only a dwarf myself, her happiness

is more to me than my own.
But sometimes I do think that things have turned out for the best. Margaret and her husband came all the way back to the States to visit "Dora Ravenwood's grave, but just the same, in spite of her grief and her mourning, I am sure Garry Waterbury's wife is happier without the

And I-Well, I suppose I haven't missed so much in this life after all. I am very well satisfied.



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[Continued from page 23]

I undressed her and put her in my bed. Then I called a doctor. He thumped her over, asked her and me some questions, shook his head-it was a physical breakdown; the girl would require simple food, complete rest, abstinence from cigarettes and alcohol and excitement—for weeks.

Next morning she was a wee bit better, but woefully weak. The jazz of her nightlife personality was all out of her. just a sick kitten, and she clung to me and sobbed softly. She begged me not to leave her and not to send her away. was the only one in the whole world who loved her, she moaned, and if I abandoned could stay, and that, though I must go on working. I would give her all the rest of my time and all my help and sympathy. And I did. her now she would die. I assured her she

It was during the weeks that followed, weeks when I would hurry home after each show to nurse my patient, when I would sit up with her through most of each night, that she told me the strange story of her life—oh, not chronologically, or by way of narrative, but in helter-skelter bits, as her mood befell her.

A most amazing story, though, when viewed from the short distance required for a focus on all of its twists and squirms in so brief a time; for Jane wasn't far past twenty when she told it.

It surged, to me, with commentaries on so many phases of our times, our conditions, our intricate social phenomena. It convinced me that we are still childrenbad boys and girls, too, fighting and playing and cheating and lying and scarcely better than animals who are not credited with

I SHALL try to tell you Jane's story, very much as she told it to me, together with many of her observations on people and things as she found them, and occasionally some of my own, as I have

found them and as she let me see them.

I shall assemble the scattered memories into a more or less orderly and consecutive tale, dwelling rather lightly on its early stages, for they deal with domestic situations and human problems too deep for me to shed much light upon; but the later ones, in the atmospheres of the theatre and the life around it, which perhaps it has been given to me to understand more fully than most folks, I shall detail at some length.

So—let's go: Jane was born in Chicago, somewhere on the near West Side, among the rookeries and tumble-down shanties which not so long ago were legion around the skirts of the old district of vice and dirt and shame in the vicinity of the Old Desplaines Street police station. Her father had been a barber, and her mother a servant-girl. The father had died when she was twelve or so, and her mother got work scrubbing the floors of a big skyscraper, nights.

The burden of housekeeping and raising the four younger kids fell on Jane. mother came home about daylight, brokenbacked and sour, and soon after she would crawl out of her bed, would be off again to walk downtown to her work.

So poor that living was stripped to its elemental factors, surrounded by the riff-raff of a vast city's most miserable undesirables of all kinds, the bright-eyed young-ster, with all the responsibilities and drudgeries of a mother and none of even her sorry thrills, grew to hate life, the world,





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Somewhere, through the undisclosed jigsaw puzzle of her ancestry, there had come down to her, besides, an inborn urge for dainty things, an artistic streak, a gnawing crave for a million colors and sounds and touches which her sordid existence made She kept pluckily on, but garish, ghastly, she never insulted her natural instincts by nursing any illusion that she was satisfied. She despised the scullery, the drudgery, the For the actual contacts she had t hot hatred; for the theoretical rules and preachments she had a cold contempt.

Her father had been an Italian. Her mother, I believe, had German blood, or Austrian. Handerson, of course, was not her right name—she had probably never heard of it when she lived in the rear of the third floor of a brick tenement on Peoria Street. Somewhere in her breed there had survived those sparks of what might be regarded as gentility. All the neighbors thought her "a queer one." She told me She told me that, sick as she was, with a glitter of pride in her tired black eyes. She was out of tune with that world, even with her own mother and her sisters and

Her schooling stopped abruptly with her father's death. So did her church-going. There was no nourishment except from within her own young, under-developed body and over-active mind for ethical, moral, spiritual growth. She just drooped along, like a lily in a muck-heap . . . and so she became fourteen, which was the eagerly awaited border-line when, according to the humane provisions of a watchful and protecting State, she could go forth and be a wage-earner without interference from the majestic arm of organized society.

Through a settlement-house employment bureau, Jane was assigned to a post as nursemaid to a young child in the home of a rich family, not far from Lake Shore Drive and the famed Gold Coast.

Until then she had never even seen the outside of such a house. What she knew of how such people thought and acted and reacted, had been picked up from an occasional newspaper story or one of the few movies she had seen. To her it came like a great bolt inspired from that mysterious realm above-she to be transferred from the slime of the slums to the half-mythical silks and perfumes and purples of million-Even as a servant, this must be aires !

What was left in the cracked cup behind the stove in the home kitchen went for a neat uniform, a black knee-length dress with lacey little white aprons and caps to match. New shoes, too. For an hour, she told me, she combed and fluffed her black hair; that was how she fixed it for "society"; later she tortured it straight and "slick" for Broadway.

A NYWAY, she reported at the servants' entrance of the big house off the Drive, was taken to the mistress of the establishment, and, though she stuttered and stam-mered and gulped and flew pink and pale by turns, she made a satisfactory impression, for she was engaged.

Her charge was the grand-child of the woman who took her on. Its mother was off somewhere in Europe. The household off somewhere in Europe. at that time consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Pettigrew (let us call them), he a financier and she an arrogant power in the oldest and foremost Chicago set; a daughter, about Jane's age, named Sybil; and a son, who was off at military school, several years older. There were a dozen or so maids, cooks, chauffeurs, butlers, etc.

Jane, bewildered by the splendor and the marvels into which she had been so suddenly propelled, dizzy with the tremendous transition, blundered for days, pop-eyed, through the myriad manifestations all about her of this fairyland on earthwhere there were dazzling lights and where there was magic music and where one sank ankle-deep into rugs and where all was splendor and pictures and pearls and millions.

Even now, as Jane Handerson, toast of the wildest and most prodigal spenders in New York's most bizarre post-midnight resort-Jane of the Follies-lay and talked of these things, her tired, slightly "hard

boiled" dark eyes crackled.

She was destined to see many men and women of the blue-book and the checkbook in their less dignified and less stately gestures; she was to see the haircloth of their composition grate through the satin lapels of dress coats, and to see the pearls which at first so hypnotized her around the throats of half-tipsy debutantes and plump, over-indulged dowagers-yes, she was feel them on her own Peoria-Street skin. and see them on the powdered necks of chorus-girls and hired loreleis.

ES, the world-famed "hostess" of the Y night club, whence Jane had wafted to Broadway glorification at the New sterdam, had a hatful of pearls; and diamonds; and rubies and the rest of such gewgaws and gimcracks, thrown at her, for the most part; nabobs very similar to the Mr. Pettigrew who was the master of this Chicago castle which made her blink

and pinch herself.
This same Mr. Pettigrew, it appeared as Jane proceeded, was a snob; a man of power and impregnable position; a grandfather, a civic monument, a financial Colossus. Naturally, his personality and his friends and family and residence and way of living and method of action made a stunning impression upon poor little Jane.

Yet, strangely, the Angel could descend. Indeed, not only did he and his myriad miracles flabbergast this child of the alleys, but, it seems, she had treasures which

attracted him.

I must not recite too exhaustively Jane's own telling of the practised wiles which the old reprobate visited upon her. struck me that he must have been a rottenbad sport, this man of birth and education and fortune, in his own walls, turning against a frightened, confused servantafraid to fight, ashamed to cry—the mighty batteries of his strength.

That part of Jane's story made me shed The more drastic experiences of her later years, even the more critical misadventure which followed when Pettigrew's son came home from school on a holiday, did not affect me as much as the studied and sinister campaign waged against this panic-stricken child by that unmanly "gentleman.

At first, his advances took the guise of kindnesses—gratuities. He came to the nursery mornings and evenings, ostensibly to chuckle his grandchild under the chin, but actually to press his petting upon the

At first she tried to seem unconscious of the significance of his approaches. That, of course, led him to make them more pointed. Presently, after she had blushed and flushed, retreated, even ventured to voice pleas, she recognized that a crisis must come soon-either she must surrender to the intrusions of her employer, against whom she felt by impulse rather than direct reasoning or concrete moral teaching, an irresistible repulsion; or else

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It is easy enough to say "If she were a decent, Christian girl, she would not have hesitated for a second. She would have given up anything rather than tolerate such

conditions. But-wait.

She was a baby. She had no set determinations, fortified by mature understanding; her resistance had not been cemented

by experience, by intelligent religion, by a good mother's constant faithful upbuilling through feminine childhood; her character had not been progressively developed—it was wonderful that she had any, at all.

Besides, to leave would mean that she

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must go back to Peoria Street, to the dump piles and the grime and grisly miseries.

Besides, she was possessed of goose-fleshy fear. Perhaps the instinct of na-ture cries to us to run when we meet a bear, but some of us are paralyzed, frozen with fear.

And, from all that Jane told me of this Pettigrew, he was a hear in every sense of the word except the zoo classification.

So, with all this spinning her about between her doubts, her apprehensions and her frantic hope that something would turn up to save her from the need of forcing a final decision, she put up with his leering and his pawing.

She struggled, she ran, she sobbed, all without drawing the attention of Mrs. Pettigrew or any of the other servants. She parried, she fenced, she barricaded herself behind furniture, she contrived to clude the scarring wounds of his designing

and clutching claws.

The money that he gave her, she took home to her mother. It was a lot of money, as figures went with her-a dollar time he came to the nursery, often two dollars in a single day. She told her delighted mother that the millionaire was free-handed—as, indeed, this one was, and figure that whimsy any way you think best.

Once, when old Pettigrew caught her in a corner held her arms down pushed her

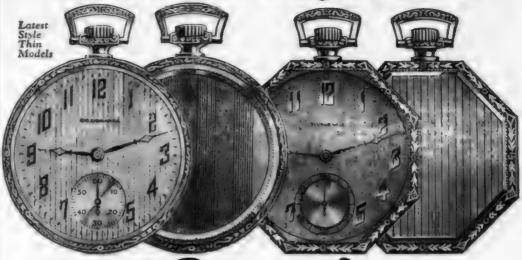
a corner, held her arms down, pushed her head up and managed to get a kiss upon her tight-pressed, bloodless lips, he thrust a bill into her hand as she flew toward the door, intercepted her, opened the door him-self and slipped out. When, after standing limp and sick for a minute or more, she opened her trembling hand, she found therein a yellow-back—a twenty! She changed that one and fed it to her mother in bits. fearing to stagger her with such a windfall in one gift.

Again, let me say, most folks raised in sheltered, normal homes will throw their hands above and cry: "How could she do it?" Had you heard Jane ten ... Pettigrew understand, even sympathize. Pettigrew and his kind are no fools. Yes, it was an indignity. But twenty dollars is a whole cuttersnipe, too. Kings Had you heard Jane tell it, you would erstand, even sympathize. Pettigrew have played that game with commoners through all the ages, I am told: and how many of the blessed peasantry stood out against the combined pressure of hope of great reward, threat of severe punishment, and the nature-made humility of the puny against the powerful?

A NYWAY, Jane, throughout her entire life, never revealed a particularly iron moral constitution. She always had a weakness for money or the things money would buy. At that stage, she brought the dollars of her humiliation home to her mother-she had not yet reached the stage of bravado where she would dare spend it on herself, or even hoard it away. the same streak in her became the captain of her life. Not that Jane was "mercenary" in that she wanted stocks and bonds or accumulated wealth; she simply could not grow indignant when other people offered her luxuries or the means of luxuries, even though she realized that altruistic generosities in this world are rare.

Jane was never a heroine. Cross-bred, self-raised among the sorriest circumstances of our metropolitan dregs, she differed little from the run of the riffraff, and, with one or two different accidents of fate she would probably have finished as the wife of a teamster in a tenement flat or -within a stone's throw of her girlhood home in almost any direction were acres

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of the dens and dives which made that region notorious around the globe.

So, perhaps, it was more deplorable than strange that she did not tear the insidious bills up and throw them into Pettigrew's face, scratch his eyes out, expose him to his wife, run out and slam the door behind her, report him to the nearest policeman, then crawl home and say to her scrubweary and life-weary mother:

"Mother, before I would yield one iota of my womanhood, I would spend my days here, with you, in respectable poverty.'

HER mother wouldn't have understood a word of what she meant, in the first place, as you shall see she didn't under even more aggravated situations, and would have thrown her out into the garbage-heap in the second. You may not understand— but Jane did. Fine distinctions of ethics do not weigh against tangible dollars and steady jobs on Peoria Street, near Lake Street-or didn't at that time. When the grocer snarled for his silver and the landlord roared for his greenbacks, it was not substantial satisfaction of claims to answer:

"I cannot pay you in coin, but my daugh-

ter is a lady

I never had that presented to me before Jane made it so unforgettably and un-mistakably clear. My parents were com-paratively poor—are yet; but we lived among trees and grass and fresh air, among church-going working people, amidst cleanliness of mind and heart and body—as such things go in this world, which is none too clean or fine in any part of it.

This moralizing is not entirely Jane, who had lived much since old Pettigrew left her, quivering and aghast, crushing in her clenched hand the first twentydollar bill she had ever seen-yes, the first she had ever seen!--looked back upon the events and the conditions of those hours, was she who drew some of the morals that adorned her tale. If Jane was lacking in vision toward the consequences of her acts, she was not near-sighted in seeing the causes of many of those con-She was quite a little philsequences. osopher-when she talked of the past.

And so, despite the shock of the first kiss any man had ever given her—the brutally forced kiss of a stranger with money in his hand and his own grandchild playing in the same air he breathed as he panted in the struggle with this weak, im-mature girl—Jane did not quit.

There were a few similar episodes with the head of the house, none, luckily, more aggressive in form than the twenty-dollar When for a few days she evaded querulously de-Pettigrew. her mother manded to know why the "tips" were so And the children always needed and books-and even candy; and Jane, while she never loved her younger sisters and brother ardently, sorrowed for them, for she still knew so freshly what it meant to hunger for the poor necessities of childhood against the never-ending repetition of "No-I ain't got no money to waste on such nonsense."

The Easter holiday period was coming Jane had been in the Pettigrew service since the middle of January. whose photographs never seen Junior, adorned the home, and into whose rooms she had peeped, to see school banners and trophies and athletic props and all such things which were like things in distant fables to her. From his pictures she saw that he was handsome; he was young, he was the Pettigrew Prince. A new, alarming, animating thrill trickled through her veins at the thought that this young Loch-(not that she had ever heard of invar Lochinvar) was coming—there—right in where she would see him; the house, where, maybe, he would even see her!

There was a great to-do when he did arrive.

One of the family town-cars had been sent to the depot. But Junior, without even telegraphing his change of plans, pulled up in his red roadster, having driven in the several hundred miles, and bringing with him a frat brother, another rich young scapegrace.

lane, hearing the buzzing of the servants and the unaccustomed sounds of young voices echoing through the Pettigrew mansion, pussyfooted to the head of the stairs and saw him.

He was even more attractive than she had imagined. In the smart uniform of the fashionable reform school for rich men's sons, he looked to this poor woman's

daughter like a young god.

Even the stiff-backed Mrs. Pettigrew bent and became human when he rushed at her, called her "dear old mater," gave her a filial hug, introduced his crony, then followed a footman, three steps at a time. up the grand staircase to his rooms. was so absorbed that she stood there, rooted, and he all but stumbled over her. He took one sideward step, shot her a second glance, then stood off deliberately vised her from her beautiful young fluffed head to her dainty tiptoes, whistled,

turned to the footman, and sang out:
"Hey, old Pie-pan, where'd the mater
pluck this new pippin?"

Jane stood, her face aflame, not knowing whether to curtsy, sink through the floor, jump out of a window or yell "Fire!"

Mrs. Pettigrew, following her son and his companion up, with more fitting poise in her progress, appeared above the landing at just that turn. It broke the strain. Jane turned and walked away—she never did remember just how or where to. Pettigrew put an arm around Junior and led him into his rooms to see how the North wall had been decorated with his school banners.

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For an hour, Jane told me, she sat in the nursery, letting the baby run riot, her brain spinning, her cheeks burning and her feet cold, trying to think-trying even to wonder with some degree of mental equilibrium.

She didn't know what had happened

to her-then.

She knows now what it was, all right-Nothing but the biggest little thing that can come to one of us in the span of our time on this funny earth; the meanest and finest, the most elevating and most depressing, the most thrilling and most gnawing and most ecstatic and most disheartening and most optimistic and most pessi-mistic bittersweet blessing-affliction that the human is heir to!

Yes, you have guessed it. Jane was in love.

THE poor, puzzled, palpitating half-woman had been hit where she didn't know she was exposed.

She sat in the nursery, trying to analyze Why was she sizzling and freezing Why did she hear the music at once? of weird birds ringing in the silent room? Why did she want to fly, yet sit there solidly sunk with body of clay and spirit

She knew that before her eyes stood the picture of that boy she had seen only for a moment; that his voice echoed about her: that something within her cried out to respond to both.

She knew that she had changed in that flash of a few seconds; that life never would or could be quite the same to her; that thereafter she must nurse new sorrows-and might embrace new and exultant joys. Might!

She was not blind or deluded or silly enough to fancy that this promised a conventional relation, such as a girl, even a

young girl, may anticipate when she chooses one boy out of the many and says to herself; within herself, that she prefers

The hiatus between them had been clear to her in its distant horizons and its bot-

tomless abysses for months.

She gave herself no hysterical hopes. She reduced it down to no defined dimensions or approximate proportions. She only knew that she was reaching into the infinite, but reaching-stretching for the unattainable faraway, but helpless to restrain her stretching.

Not a minute did she sleep that night,

she told me on another sleepless night. Her whole life now centered about the Prince of the ettigrews, she found that everything she had ever heard began to take on new significances. She hummed songs which had meant nothing but rhymed jingles, but which now vibrated with the romance and pathos and poetry of the new emotion.

of the new emotion.

She saw him next again at his breakfast, after noon. She had to pass the dining-hall. He arched entrance to the dining-hall. glanced around, saw her, took in all her lines and "points" in a single interested survey—then she passed on and out of his sight. But that one look she caught of his, and the one glance she got of him, sustained her all that day in a furious frenzy of nervous uncertainty, stimulation and excitement, part bliss, part despair.

She felt, instinctively, that his estimate of her as a "pippin," spoken frivolously in the presence of another servant and his schoolmate, was scarcely gallant. Not that Jane had been cultivated to exact from gentlemen the Chesterfieldian finesse of elegant usage. The few males who had ever "cracked" about her in her hearing ever "cracked" about her in her hearing had been ruffianly rowdies, lowbrowed loafers and banal boys. Yet, she sensed that, while he spontaneously admired her—which was something (all she had to rejoice over now)—he held her lightly.

But, after all, what mattered? Had she

been black, she could not have asked that he think her white.

Lightly he would hold her, naturally enough. For he was who he was and she was who and what she was. Her very garments shrieked the livery of her status. And she could not resent that, either. They were not unjust—they showed her the servant that she was.

The cat who looked at the king probably not mew to itself: "But, what's the He knows I'm only a cat." It probdid not mew to itself: It probably was so awe-struck that it just purred "Meowie! I have seen the king"—and, as the tale goes no farther, perhaps the cat was even cheated of the small portion of satisfaction which came to Jane, who could add "—and the king saw me, even though I am only a cat." She could hardly project herself into a self-hypnosis which would let her add further, however "—and he thought I was a peecek" he thought I was a peacock.

NO, JANE knew she was just an alley cat. But still he had called her a pippin. And he was more than an old king—he was a young prince. To a romantic girl that is a distinction of no minor moment.

Life ran on for Jane thus through several days. Once he met her in the upper corridor and lightly called to her "Hello, pretty!" That was a great event. At another time, quite unexpectedly, At another time, quite unexpectedly, he came into the nursery to stick his finger in his little nephew's ribs and call him a fat young bambino. But they were not alone with her son. Yet, she gleamed another look or two, and that gave her many hours of speculation. material for many hours of speculation, trepidation, palpitation.

It was not until the end of the week

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that relations drew any closer for her. Junior was "pitching" a party for a number of his frat-brethren and some flappers, their own sort. It was at the paternal, not fraternal, home, therefore only such as were entitled to entree beyond that threshold were bid. Of course, Chicago broad-gauged city. And the children of the best families are not always saintly, despite their inherited positions in society So it was a somewhat wild young set that gathered and made merry in Pettigrew

It started with dinner. Those were the days before prohibition. It is the fashion able thing these days to blame all the carousing of the adolescent on the allure of the forbidden. In those times alco-holic "shots" were forbidden only by se lection, but it seems to me that even "hard" drinks had about as much of that same tempting appeal then as now.

A NYWAY, as Jane told it, the cham-pagne gushed and was guzzled rather freely under the Pettigrew roof, on a foundation" of cocktails and highballs.

And the music-though executed by a string orchestra behind the palms instead of a "hot" colored jazzband, swaying and gyrating and gesticulating-had the same stimulating effect upon the young people of both sexes as it seems to develop now.

The conservatory was cleared for danc-Uniformed servitors passed about with trays of ices—and more wine—and there was spooning in the nooks, petting in the corners, and not infrequently the couples strolled out into the Spring night air and under the moon, to find retreats on the Pettigrew grounds.

had been ordered into service through the evening, to tend the punch-bowl. (That is one institution, perhaps, which has passed since then.) It was pink punch, and not as innocuous as it might appear. Jane ladled it into the little cut-glass cups with handles which were the accepted goblets for punch. Some of the guests came frequently to her fountainthat, too, was the fashion: champagne was brought, but punch was "come after."

Not only the guests, either. The host-Jane's demi-divinity-seemed to prefer the punch to the bottled giggles of the sloeeyed maidens of old Brittany.

Amid the noise, the gaiety, the music, the high spirits, it was quite easy—it seemed almost the thing to do-for him to bridge without any introductory ceremonies, the strict proprieties which, ac-cording to the book, should have restrained him from addressing a servant except in the stilted limitations of their established intercourse.

Each time that Junior made pilgrimage to the bowl, therefore, he smiled to Janesmiled much differently than he had be-It was an intimate sort of smile now-oh, as though they had known one another for a long, long time; and known one another well.

An older or more sophisticated girl might have read at a flash the psychological signal in his new looks, made the more legible by his heightened physical exuberance-for, as Jane had already dis-

cerned, her punch had a kick.

Not alone did Junior smile and even wink, but he addressed her in low tones. whispered that she looked whatever the collegiate vernacular for the present-day "hotsy totsy" might have then been. She could only smile faintly back, for she was delirious with the whole situation-

The brilliant party, such as she had never seen or dreamt of before; the clothes, the lights, the wine, the music, the dancing, the spooning-and, above all, the amazing, thrilling new demeanor of her Prince, all coming so fast and feverish that she could not weigh them, dissect

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them, even realize them—was now on. She saw, of course, that her Prince fancied and favored her. Just how, how far, she did not presume to calculate.

Mrs. Pettigrew, chaperoning the func-tion, never deigned her a glance. It was a young people's frolic, goings-on were gay and light, some latitude was to be permitted, of course; and weren't they all high-bred children, from families listed all in the gilt-edged directory of the elite and the elect?

Junior was getting quite obviously what we nowadays call "lit." His mother tapped him with her fan now and again and beamingly cautioned him not to get giddy and that was all of her reproof or chastisement.

The punch-bowl, drained by the constantly recurring and constantly increasing demands of the merry-makers, ran dry shortly before midnight.

Jane carried it out to the butler's pantry to be refilled.

More of the mysterious mixture had to

be prepared, and the bustle back of the scenes was rather frantic, so she withdrew until her bowl should be ready to be carried back.

As she crossed through the dining-hall, intending to slip up to her own room to primp up a bit, she felt rather than saw that there was someone standing in a dimly lighted corner which she must pass; and she felt that the someone was not there idly, but was waiting—waiting for her! It was Junior.

His cheeks were red with the tingling tang of the alcohol; his eyes sparkled; he swayed just a trifle, it might have been an expression of his youthful energies, pleasure-inspired.

But his lips were parted in an expression that Jane recognized—she had seen it last about the seamed mouth of his father!

For a moment she hesitated—to fly past him, to turn and seek the sanctuary of the servants' workrooms, to stand and wait, or to go on and see.

Being so young, so heart-over-head infatuated, the choice came without being sent for: she tripped on, nearer and nearer to her Prince.

He put out an arm.

"Just a minute, pretty," he said, not in the thick tongue of intoxication, rather in the just-a-little-loose articulation of a youth who has sipped. He did not stagger. If either of them did, it was Jane.

"Just a minute, dearie," he followed up.

"Whe are you—were you—going?"

"Wh-why-up-p-p-s-stairs-s, s-s-sir-r-r."

THEY were the first syllables she had ever spoken to him!

"Oh—isn't that just dandy? Go ahead—I'll be up d'rectly."
"'Up—up—wh-where?" asked Jane he

'Up-up-wh-where?" asked Jane, her pulses pounding and her brain buzzing with million crowding sensations and emotions.

"Up—wherever you're going, pretty."
"B-but I'm—I'm going up to my—to

my—"
"That's all right. I know just where 'tis. I was born in this hut—know every square inch... back stairway and every square inch . . . Go on, pretty—and wait—for me."

A thousand clubs were beating upon the poor skull of Jane. What was this that he was saying? What was it she was being told to do? What was it he proposed?

"Step on it, pretty," he whispered. "Someone will come by and—and catch us here, and there'll be—well, there'll be kidding, if nothing more. So trip along-and wait—understand?"

She understood.

Her brain had cleared enough for that. "Oh, please, sir," she warned, pleaded, "don't think of such a thing. Why—



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"Oh, don't bother about the dear old mater. She's all fussed up dancing with Stan Wallington, the handsome old football gladiator. No one will miss us—go

Jane stood there. She had found it difficult enough to repel the father. But But He had been her deity-her first the son! She had fancied that he was fine and lovable. He had fascinated her She had put out of her mind his cavalierly attitude toward her, when he showed any attitude at all, as manifesting the careless informality of youth—spoiled and pampered youth.

But now-it was all to unmistakable.

A ND if an atom of doubt remained, it was sent reeling immediately, for, before she suspected or feared such a thing, his arms were flung about her, she was half lifted from the floor in a powerful, impassioned embrace, and tipsy hot kisses being showered on her cheeks, her lips, her eyes, her neck. And something was in her hand—she knew it by touch. It was a paper bill!

Then something inside her broke loose. With one cataract of raging revulsion that ripped through her veins, her great love was drowned without ever coming up again for a breath or a gasp, and there rose a fighting, infuriated little demon.

With all the strength of her lithe body and her bitter fury, she tore herself from his clutch. She stood before him, blazing, burning, battling. She looked at the bill—

a twenty!
"You—you fresh bum," she shrilled. would have been fine had she let forth upon him the vocabulary of heroic literature. But Jane had none. When she was gently disposed, she could talk the few words of everyday communication without the gutter-slang or the crude col-loquialisms of her home environment. But when she grew angry, she reverted to the fighting-talk of Peoria Street—and there, when a girl was grievously insulted, she called "names"—and "fresh bum" was one

the superlatives.
"What? What's that?" he demanded.
"Why—you lowdown rat. Where of Where do you get that stuff, to grab me and rough me

She tore the bill to bits and rained them at him.

He switched from anger at her assault to admiration of her charms and the allure of her bristling animation.

"vou're even he interrupted. Sav. prettier when you're all peppered up. bet if you cared for a chap, you'd-

That was the last barrier. Cared? If she cared? H If she cared? He would never know, he could never understand, how she had cared, and how much—and what he had already done to her for that, he the only one for whom, in all her driven, hungry, harrassed, suffocated and sordid life, she had ever cared!

As he shot those words, his eyes again, and more alight with that sneering sparkle of the hunter after her kind of game, the gentle heritage of her barber-father's strain, evaporated, and to the fore sprang the brutal, raw line of her scrubwomanmother.

Where Jane was raised, when people

rew angry, they struck out. Like a bolt, came the flat of her hand against the flaming cheek of the Prince the Pettigrews.

It was a resounding, echoing, reverberating slap.

The music was not on at the moment.
A dozen people in the nearby conservatory heard it—and heard the un-chokedback oath that Jane let fly with it.

As young Pettigrew, first shocked, then

infuriated, sprang forth to seize her, several of his guests rushed to the spot; and, close behind them, came Mrs. Pettigrew, herself.

"What-what does this mean?" she asked, puffing and raising her lorgnette.

Junior pursed his lips as though to start an explanation—something to break the situation and dismiss it as an accident a misunderstanding—an unfortunate some thing-anything.

But the scrubwoman's daughter, standing there, her lips twitching, her hands clenched, her slender shoulders quivering with rage beyond restraint, cried out:

"I'll tell you what it means. It means that this—this fresh bum, your son, rough housed me, grabbed me, slobbered kisses all over my face, had the gall to shove money in my hand-and that wasn't all

he—he told me to go upstairs——"
"Of course," interposed Mrs. Pettigrew
"A servant in an ugly temper. Why
shouldn't he have ordered you upstairs
... But I am grieved, Junior, that you should have so far forgotten your breed ing and your training as to strike a ser-

"Who?" screamed Jane, jumping up and down in her tempest of temper. "Who-strike who? That poor heel hit ME. Say, where I was turned out, they'd crown your bum prince king if he pulled any of his raw work. 'Him—smack me? I'd like to see him."

"What? How? It was-it was you-

you who—"
"Me an' nobody else. I slapped him one on his kisser . . . an' another wheeze out o' you, an' I'll wallop you, too, you grey-headed, fourflushing old schoolboy vamp. I got a good notion to take one at you for luck, anyhow-

And Jane advanced on the unspeakably flustrated millionairess, who recoiled and covered her face with her plump arms.

Two or three of the youths stepped forward, between their swooning hostess

d the bristling brat.
"Get her out," wailed Mrs. Pettigrew.

"Have her removed—call the servants—"
"I'll get out," sneered Jane. "The whole gang of you ain't big enough to chuck me out—while I got a drop o' blood left . . . But I'll go . . . if nobody tries to lay another hand on me.

I'M tied up on this dive, anyway. Between that husband o' yours and his busy stuff upstairs, and that son o' yours and his propositions an' his grab-act, I lost my appetite for high s'ciety... an' that goes for your fat mug, too, Mrs. Queen... I want to get out o' here, where I can breathe fresh air."

She tore off her apron and threw it at

She tore off her apron and threw it at Mrs. Pettigrew. The cap had come off in her struggle with Junior—she kicked it toward the hostess.

"Good-night," she tossed at them, with unsubtle irony.

"I guess I wrecked the party, anyway."

And, with a heart beating high with blind anger, where only a few minutes earlier it had hummed and clicked to the sweet symphonies and mad crescendos of a great love, she swung past them as they opened a lane for her, stumbled up the stairs, threw her few belongings into her canvas telescope, and ran out-out into the

Pi

Ran out-but where was she to run to?

It was past midnight.

In her pocket she had a few coins. Behind her were the dreams, the illu-

sions, or the delusions, of her first thrills of life away from the alleys and the rook-eries from which she had fancied herself emancipated. All behind her—everything behind her.

And-before her-what? [To be continued]



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Don't Destroy Illusions

[Continued from page 69]

have been one of these tarnished ones, be extra careful now to be reticent and refined. Do not lavish all caresses the moment he demands one, Give only enough to leave him desiring more.

Everyone must realize that the conditions

of the modern world have made any lasting love very difficult to hold. And there is very little use in being too romantic. Girls must face this and try to have some in-terests in life which do not depend upon the satisfying of their longing for one particular man, because he may show the "pink ribbon" quite unconsciously and the girl may become disillusionized, or she may show some mental or physical "pink ribbon" herself, and disillusionize the man, and the actual love not being so deep as love used to be when conditions were different, the whole affair may end. It requires a mighty lot of intelligence, and an array of resources, to enable any woman, tarnished or pure, to hold a man in these days! And I would advise them all to try and curb their emotions when the man seems to be growing into the sun, moon, and stars for them.

Try to use moderation, Laurette and Sylvia, because here is a terribly cruel fact about love between the sexes. When on either side it becomes a burning passion it seems to lose the power to draw a return, The tarnished ones who have at last learned to love are often capable of this inordinate passion—and if repulsed by one man they are quite likely to feel the same sort of wild longing for another. This is the result of their promiscuity for the first years of their adolescence. They got into the way of changing in a light vein, so that now when they have grown serious, passion holds them in the abstract, expressing itself toward whatever male magnet is near—who then becomes the man for the time. Their case is very sad, and they know more unhappiness than balanced

people can imagine.

A ROCHEFOUCAULD has a maxim which says, "Women for the first time they love, love the lover; for the second and the rest, they only love LOVE!" It is a hideous truth. The wise course for all girls and young women to take, from the youngest flapper to the experienced maiden of five and twenty, is for them definitely to decide what they really want and then consider by what methods they can obtain it. If the flapper does this she will be in time to prevent herself from laying up for herself limitations—and so she may more quickly secure her goal.

But never forget that no matter how yielding and docile a man may appear to be, your hold over him is only while your fascination for him lasts. The male spirit is essentially insubordinate and demands freedom, and if it begins to feel the curb, a great force of subconscious resistance is

aroused which eventually chases away love. So, girls, never ask your lovers or husbands questions—or make them give a minute account of their time when absent from you. If you do they will certainly lie to you after the first or second occasion, and nothing bores men more than to be obliged Do not boss your fiancés or turn to lie. them into menials to obey your requests. You were not such fools as to do this while the chase was on. So, why suppose it is all right when you become engaged? You have to be even more careful to be attractive then than before, because some of the male hunting instinct is appeased, and in Denver, Colo. | consequence he may become less keen.



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The Two Hour Stop-Over

[Continued from page 60]

attractiveness makes me afraid of her. am more shy about any close contact with her than about any woman I know, though of course our social relations are those of neighbors and friends. Benny's friend. He h You see, He helps me when I have tire trouble, and I help him putter around his motor, and all that. His wife would be the last woman in the world I would flirt with. Yet this is not because A. B., as Benny often calls her, has any such aloofness.

Alice and I are good friends, of course, because the two families are good friends. But it has seemed, a few times that we have happened to be alone together, that we were then closer friends than usual, almost intimate friends. She then called me "Jimmy," but at other times "Mr. Judd." That is a little peculiar to start with. And she has shown in other ways She then called that she is-well, not exactly afraid of me.

THERE was the day we took a little motoring tour, and the two women wanted to pick some daisies in a field. I vaulted over the fence first, and A. B., without waiting for Benny, climbed up on the fence and reached one hand out to me to steady her. When she stood on the top she reached out the other hand, so that I could help her jump down. She has very nice hands. Benny grinned, in fact, he actually beamed upon us. Then I helped Julia over, though she gave me a look. But Alice was discreet. On the way back she climbed the fence but called Benny to help her over. Julia disdained my help this time.

Another thing that stumped me was the church social and supper, in the church parlor. I went straight from business and was late, hardly finishing my supper, when they cleared the place for a concert. There they cleared the place for a concert. was a crowd at the door when everybody started for home. There was always a lot of handshaking at these socials, anyway. While talking to people I had lost Julia, and I was stretching my neck to catch sight of her when suddenly I felt a soft, warm hand take hold of mine. turned in surprise and there was Alice smiling into my eyes, with Jimmy, grinning, just beyond. I hailed them in a ning, just beyond. I hailed them in a matter-of-fact way, but I was a little embarrassed, and somehow I had a guilty ieeling in realizing that I enjoyed the touch of her hand.

It was one of those things that mean nothing, and yet that might mean something-you understand. I don't mean that she was bold. There was nothing she ever did but what, if anything came of it, a man might be easily accused of misinterpreting. Perhaps it was only in my own mind. Yet it seemed enough to indicate that if I were to take the initiative there might have been a flirtation-probably harmless, yet perhaps enough to give a man's wife reason for being jealous. That was the vague feeling I got about it, and it made me uneasy—and afraid of Alice. Or perhaps afraid of myself, in relation to her. An much the same thing. Anyway, it amounts to

And there was the time her water pipe burst, and she called me in, just as I was getting home. She didn't know enough getting home. She didn't know enough to turn the whole works off in the cellar, and didn't know where when I asked. found the place by tracing the pipes, near some old wood, and got a nasty sliver in my hand turning the spigot. Then Alice insisted on taking the sliver out, with needle and tweezers. I was uneasy about her holding my hand. Why? Because I liked it. It seemed—slightly personal. liked it.

Then she touched the spot with iodine But I was embarrassed. I was certainly not trying to flirt with my neighbor's wife

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Jud

When Julia came home from the grocer's she found me cleaning the car. She men tioned the iodine spot, and I said it had been only a sliver. Just then Mrs. Cox hailed Julia from her back-yard, telling her about the burst water-pipe, and her had turned the water off, and how she then had to take a nasty sliver out of my hand, to put it back on her wood-pile I heard from it afterward. Altogether Altogether there were several such little instances. none serious, but enough to show me privately that Alice might be not quite the paragon that Benny thought her.

One day not long ago I came home to find a sewing machine salesman, a fellow named Smith, talking to Julia about an electric portable machine. He wanted to put one in on free trial. He said our neighbor, Mrs. Cox, was undecided, and he would see her a couple of days later. But he not only saw Mrs. Cox again, but a number of times, leaving a portable, then taking it away and leaving a cabinet machine, then calling to fix it, and all that. Benny told me he didn't want a sewing machine, for A. B. never did any sewing anyhow. Julia said to me that it didn't look good, Smith calling on Mrs. Cox so much. I had the same hunch, but I only said to Julia that she was too easily suspicious, and that started an argument.

was in the midst of my work at the office one afternoon when my telephone rang. I was anxious to get away, and

was impatient over the interruption.
"Is this Mr. Judd?" It was a woman's voice on the wire.

"Mr. Judd speaking. Who is it?" My mind was still on my work.

"Oh, I thought you would know my voice. I can't tell you my name over the phone. And please don't you speak my

How very mysterious! Instantly my work was forgotten. I strained my ear. The voice had a far away sound; the woman seemed nervous.

"Well, I'm sorry, but your voice doesn't ound natural, if you are anybody I

know."
"Oh, you know me well enough—as well
"Oh you know me well enough—as well as you know the alphabet. Do you know the alphabet?"
"Do I know the alphabet?"

"Yes, I'll bet you don't even remember

at. Can you say it?"
What kind of a fool game was this, I wondered, some silly woman bursting in on a busy man's busy day, asking him if he knew his A B C's—! And then, like a flash it came to me. A. B. C. Alice

a flash it came to me. A. Beatrice Cox. Benny's wife.

NEVER mind; I got you. But what can I do for you?"

"There, I knew I could call on you."

"You surely can. What is it?"

"I—I'm in trouble."

"Dear me, what is it?"

"Dear me, what is it?"
"I am telephoning from the railroad station at Harmon-you know-Harmon.

"Oh, yes, that's where they take off the electrics, and put on the steam locomotives. What are you doing there?"

"Oh, I lost my pocketbook, and my ticket. had to get off the train here."

Which was plausible. Harmon is the first and only stop on the through express trains. And I knew that Mrs. Cox occasionally visited relatives up North.

"I see," I said. Then I almost blundered. I was on the point of asking whether or not she had tried to call up Benny, and

perhaps could not find him in his office, but the mysterious nature of the call checked me. She did not want her name checked me.

mentioned, over the phone.

"Have you called up Thirty-seventh
Street?" That is where Benny's office is

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located.

"No, it is something I can't tell him. I thought you would help me. Please don't ask me any questions."

More mysterious than ever. What could it all mean? I must be careful. I wondered if the telephone girl in our outer office might be listening in. Probably not, since it is a busy switchboard. Yet one can never tell. Then I wondered if Alice might be afraid to let Benny know that she was stupid or careless enough to lose her hand-bag. That didn't seem plausible. That man Smith bobbed into my mind, but I

promptly put him out.

"That's all right, you can depend upon me. Shall I come and get you—or bring some money?" Meanwhile I was doing

some fast thinking.

"I'll be here in the station, at Harmon. I didn't know who else to ask."

"It's all right. I've got the car down

town. I'll drive up—er—in two hours. Good-by."

As I hung up the receiver I experienced the sense of adventure. The very idea of me, staid and respectable James Ambrose Judd, driving up to the Harmon railroad station to rescue a lady in distress, perhaps to carry her home with me in the dark, and of all women her of whom I was afraid because she was attractive. Well! The prospect was exciting enough to an old plugger like me-too much like

a situation in the movies.

And yet that was not all. What was the nature of this mystery? Why could Alice not call upon her husband? Perhaps I would entangle myself in some affair that would wind up in serious trouble. No matter. I had made an appointment. There

was only one thing I could do now.

And what would Julia think? Well, my wife would be very curious indeed to know what business I had in shouldering any of the personal troubles of my neighbor's wife. Indeed! What was Mrs. Cox to me? Yes, what? Should I not just hunt up Benny and tell him where to find his wife? Yet Alice had said that it was something she could not tell him. If I were going to be her friend, since she had appealed to me for help, I could not be-tray her. I must go through with it now.

BUT suppose Julia should find it out? I wondered if I should telephone her that I would be home late. But she would ask questions. She knew that I was going to get the car. Perhaps Julia would assume that I was delayed in getting it. The car was to be ready at four. It was now ten after five. Could I make Harmon in two hours? How far was it? Perhaps I could be home by nine o'clock. I would better do the thing and explain after. Perhaps do the thing and explain after. Perhaps there would be nothing to explain, that is,

something easy to explain frankly.

I pulled my work together, to tackle it the first thing in the morning. I guess it is still there, on my desk. But as I got ready to leave I kept wondering about the telephone girl, Miss Flynn. Had she heard? Of course there was nothing inheard? Of course there was nothing in-criminating, and yet after all it was a mysterious call from a woman, obviously not my wife. Miss Flynn knows Julia's voice on the wire. I thought I would take a good look at the girl on going out. But Miss Flynn was innocence itself, almost

Miss Flynn was innocence itself, almost too innocent.

"You're leaving early tonight, Mr. Judd?" she asked, cheerily.

"Yes, I've got to get my car at the service station—" and then I added—"if it's ready," as if to suggest the possibility

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of delay, in case my wife should be asking about me. I had the feeling that it was a cheap kind of a subteringe—that last. Did I really feel that guilty

"I suppose you have lots of fun with your car," said Miss Flynn. "Well, good night." And then I wondered what she meant by that. It might have been a perfectly innocent remark—or it might have some dark reference to my anticipated

adventure of the evening.
"You'll find her O.K., Mr. Judd," said
the mechanic, as I climbed in and took

hold of the wheel.
"Listen," I said. "I'm supposed drive a new car not faster than twenty miles an hour the first thousand miles. She has gone four hundred now. What would happen if I drove her at forty or fifty-

He looked up into my face. I grinned. "No, I'm not a bootlegger," I said, "but what would happen?

"Well, it isn't a good idea," he said.
"Probably nothing would happen. She's a good car. Only they're tight when they're new. They heat up faster, that's all."

I thanked him. But whether the car

lasted a little longer or a little shorter, decided that she would have to travel this particular night. A lady was waiting for help, up there at Harmon—and then Julia would be waiting for me at home. So I fought my way through the traffic, carefully, and when I got beyond the conges-So I tion I stepped on the gas. A peppy little car, all right. Especially after I got up beyond Yonkers. The old boiler had never performed like this new one. Even the fast driving was an adventure. A little speed in driving—because I seldom do any speeding—is stimulating to me. When I wheeled around at Harmon I was surprised at being there so soon.

She was pacing up and down on the station platform, but she recognized the car as soon as I saw her and came toward me. When I opened the door she climbed right

in and sat down.
"Well," I said, "what shall we do?

"Well," I said, what shall Shall I drive you home?"
"I don't know," she replied, looking toward the station. "But I've been so conward the station all this time. I just spicuous, waiting all this time. wanted to get out of sight."

"Well," I said, not knowing what move to make next. Meanwhile we just sat in car and talked.

the car and talked.

"I don't know what you will think of me—" she started to say.

That's "Oh, I'm glad to be of service. That's what we're all here for." But I was thinking of the mystery of the situation. didn't say anything to Benny, nor to any one. I just hurried out here."

'HANK you," she said. "Oh, I know THANK you, she said.

You're wondering. I left a note for Benny that I was going to visit my sister." But it didn't sound convincing.

And then you lost your bag and your ticket—and were afraid to tell Benny.' She knew I thought it sounded fishy.

'Oh, I had a quarrel with Benny-about the sewing machine."

"Maybe about the sewing machine man, I said to myself. But out loud I said, 'Dear me, that's too bad."

"I was going to leave him," she said, nervously. "I thought I would tell him that in another note, later." But somehow I kept thinking of Smith. I almost

thought I could smell him around the sta-

"Well, it's your own affair," I said. "Here I am. I can let you have money enough to go on to your sister now-un-

"The trouble is," she kind of hesitated, "I don't know-about going back to Benny, now-

Of course Benny Cox is my friend. For a moment I was a little impatient, and I spoke up bluntly. "I don't see why you didn't call up Benny and just tell him to forget the quarrel.

Oh, but I can't tell Benny-"

"Well," I stumbled on, "you have already told Benny about going to your sister's—" And then I remembered the sister's—" And then I remembered, the secrecy and mystery of her telephone call. There was something back of all this, "Unless—" I added, "unless there is something else."

She was silent for a few moments. think she was willing enough to speak and tell me the truth, but she didn't know how to say it.

"I see," I said.
"Oh, I don't know what you will think,
Mr. Judd," she said.
"It's all right with me, A.B., whatever

it is. I am not going to ask you any ques-It's none of my business. I'm here to help you, if I can.

"Oh, it isn't as bad as you think, Jimmy. I'm a good woman, Jimmy."

WHY, I always knew that, A.B.," I said. "I might as well tell you, or you'll think Lord knows what."
"No I won't," I said.

"I never should have married Benny. know he is good-too good for me-but didn't love him enough. And I thought was going to run away, this time-on top

of this quarrel, and everyning "Did you think you were in love with

this other—"
"Oh, I thought so—but I wasn't. I couldn't do it. I mean, I couldn't go through with it. I was in a panc when we got on the train. I wanted to jump And the train wouldn't out the window. stop till we got here to Harmon. He said I was a little fool, and I said I knew I was. Then he said I would have to go on. now, or he would expose me to Benny, and I said I would hunt him up and kill

him if he did—"
"Alice, " I said, "I would do that much for you, myself."

"Oh, would you?" she said softly. Thank you. Then I sat in a seat all by myself. He wanted to stop me from get-ting off when the train got here, but I fooled him—only I left my bag on the train. So—here I am—"
"I understand, A.B.," I said. "I'll think

all the more of you, for going back to

"Oh, will you, Jimmy?"

I was not quite so sure about that, really, but there was no harm in saying so, to encourage her.

"Listen, A.B., this is entirely between you and me. I promise that."

I put out my hand, to shake hands on it. She took my hand and clung to it. I could see that she was all filled up with her

"Well," I said, "I might just as well drive you home now." To tell the truth, after the stimulation of my fast driving. and with the spice of further adventure in blood, I was just foolish enough to think that I would enjoy the sensation of personally taking to her home this fair lady in distress. In fact, I was rather keen for it, now that everything was fine and honorable all around.

"No," she s cerity, then. she said, and she showed her sin-hen. "No, I don't even want to drive back with you. Thank you much. If you have the money, I'll take the next train back, and get the first train from there. I'll tell Benny I owe the from there. station-master here, and then I'll pay you

And so it was settled.

It was later than I had calculated when I drove into the garage at home. As I left



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the car I was trying to console myself by saying, "All's well that ends well," but even as I said it to myself there flashed into my mind the thought of Miss Flynn, the telephone girl at our office. Had she listened in. The thought suddenly made me almost sick. But I straightened up. Why Why borrow trouble?

I went boldly into the house and there found Benny sitting in the dining-room, talking to Julia. I was glad he had come in. I told them I had been delayed with the car, then had some fun trying it out, driving around. It was now fine as silk. Julia showed complete indifference to my tardiness, and I breathed more easily.

The telephone rang while we were talking, and Julia answered it. She was a little startled, and looked at Benny. "Yes, he's right here," she said. Benny took the phone, full of joy, and I was glad, for his sake. He promised to meet Alice, said he would be there waiting for her.

But no sooner had the door closed behind Benny when the storm broke. It was like a sudden crack of lightning.

Julia wheeled around and looked me through and through. "Just where did you go tonight, James Judd?" she demanded.

Well, just how much Miss Flynn, dear little busy-body, had caught and spilled, I could not guess. But it was enough to start Julia with the knowledge of some mysterious woman, somewhere. It did look bad.

Of course there was no dodging the issue, now. There was bound to be a storm. I could only stand my ground. Certainly I could not betray another human being, perhaps bust up a friend's home. If it came to a showdown, and as a matter of honor, I was almost bound to suffer my own home to be broken up first. I could not betray a confidence like this one; I could also not hurt Benny. All of these things I was thinking to myself, before I answered.

DON'T stand there staring at me like a lunatic," cried Julia. "I want to know where you went this evening."

"Julia," I said quietly, "I am sorry you ask me that—because I can't tell you."

Well the effect of that was something like

Well, the effect of that was something like throwing benzine into a fire, to put it out.

She was only the more suspicious.

"Oh, you can't tell me, eh? Well, you've got to tell me. You can't fool your wife.

I'll get the truth out of you."

"I don't want to fool my wife," I said, still trying to restrain myself and to speak softly. "But if you think things that you should not think about me out of your should not think about me, out of your imagination, you will only fool yourself."

"James Judd, you've been up to some

thing tonight, and I've got to know what it is. I've a right to know."

"Julia Judd," I said, "I have been up to nothing that concerns you at all. It was a private errand, concerning another person. I must simply ask you to let it go at that."

"Who is it?"

"I can't betray a confidence."

"Oh, high sounding talk," she cried sarcastically. "But you can't fool me. I know all about it."

"But you can't know all about it. Be-sides, if you know all about it, why ask me

By this time she was half hysterical. I was all perspiration myself. She said she was my wife and was only demanding her rights. If I was unfaithful it was her business to know it. I was a dog. I could not wipe my feet on her. She stormed

on in fury.
"Please, please, Julia," I pleaded. "Will you listen to me just for a moment? This is a time when you absolutely must have faith in me—and believe in me."

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'I can't believe in you," she screamed.

"Wait, there are times when a man and his wife simply must have faith in each 'If they haven't, then it's impossible for them to go on together.'

"It's impossible now.

"Only if you think so—not because of anything I have done."

"What have you done?"
"Nothing that I shouldn't have done, nothing that I'm ashamed of, nothing that concerns you."

'What about Harmon?"

So, the girl at the switchboard had caught that much, at least. It caught me by surprise, and for the first time I quib-bled. "You mean Herman?" I asked. "Herman is not a railroad station," she

"Herman is not a railroad station," snapped.

"Oh, Harmon, yes," I said, to get back to my high plane of honor. "Why, nothing happened at Harmon. I drove that far and drove back."

And here she faced me squarely. seems pathetic, her agony of mind, as I look back at it now, from a new perspec-

tive. But then I was being grilled.
"James Judd, did you have a woman in your car tonight?"

That was an awkward question. I hesitated a moment. Alice had sat in the seat of the car a few minutes, but did not ride in it. So I fenced.

DO YOU mean to imply that I have been driving some woman around in my car tonight?"
"Yes, have you been driving a woman around?"

'No, ma'am. There has been only one person riding in my car tonight-and that "All alone?"

"Yes, all alone." "I don't believe you."

"You've got to believe me."

"You can't fool me."

"I don't want to. I don't want you to fool yourself,"

"You can't get away with it, James Judd.

Your telephone girl told me all about it."
"All about what?" Julia shrugged her shoulders. "Listen," I said. "That phone girl doesn't know what she is talking about—the little trouble-maker." 'You've got to explain.'

By this time my own patience was going fast. It was hard to restrain myself. I am steady—but, there are limits.

"I have already explained to you, Julia, that I cannot betray a confidence that con-cerns another person, but does not affect you in any way.

'Yes, and that other person is a woman." "It concerns a man and a woman, and neither has anything in particular to do with you or with me. You've got to let it go at that."

"Immy you're lying to me." And that

"Jimmy, you're lying to me." And that was about the last straw, the breaking point of my patience. And I raised my voice for the first time.
"Stop," I yelled.

"You are a liar, and a beast—"

"Stop! I am innocent of any wrong doing, and I won't be bullied and insulted in my own home. I won't listen-" grabbed my hat and started for the

"You'll "No, you won't," she screamed. stay right here and tell me the truth—" and she caught hold of my coat. But I shook her off, and rushed through the door. Thoroughly angered, now, I ran to the garage, opened the doors, switched on the lights, climbed into the car and started the engine. She was still warm. I backed out of the door and down the drive faster than usual, and just missed bumping Julia, who called out, "Jimmy as I went by. But I would not stop. "Jimmy!" had had enough for one evening. find peace on the road. Perhaps I would not come back. Why should I? What was the use?

I swung round into the road, threw the gear-lever into second, and away I went. But as I did so, I saw that Benny and Alice, in their car, were just driving into their own yard. "After all," I said to my-self, "while I have been feeling sorry for Benny in all his innocence, he is happier than I am."

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At the first cross-road I jammed on my brakes and just missed a big car by a fraction of an inch, as it seemed to me. The other car slowed up and someone yelled, but I was on my way. An inch is as good as a mile, and I stepped on the gas. The little car almost leaped. That was satisfaction, exhilaration, stimulation, With a little driving, all by myself, I thought I would cool off, get control of my excited nerves. But the peace of mind did not come. I was too much stirred up. In the mood, nothing would satisfy me but speed.

And so speed it was. It is too bad a cop didn't pick me up at the start. I turned into a well paved road leading up-state. The motor was working beautifully. Full of pep and speed. I had opened her up for the first time this evening, and she was now warmed up. Why wait to drive a thousand miles at twenty per, in a car that performed like this? Such a pick-up. What a sense of power—and speed. a marvelous plaything for a man. What

Ordinarily, with the old car, I drove at twenty-five miles per hour, and then I found satisfaction and stimulation, by contrast, when I picked up to thirty-five on a clear stretch of good road. But on this particular night thirty-five per seemed slow. Forty-five miles per hour did not seem fast—fifty did not satisfy me. Remember, it was the mood I was in. Still, I am a careful driver, and there were turns. Yet I found that I could take most of these mild turns at close to forty miles per hour. For the first time it seemed to me, I experienced the full thrill of motoring.

There was a car up ahead of me. expected to pass it in a moment. But the other car was traveling, too. I thought of my little joke about not being a boot-legger. Who were these people? It seemed they did not want me to pass them. I took one turn much faster than they did, and found myself close behind with a straight piece of road ahead. I started rolling fast and gave them the horn. They fought it out, but I had the jump on them and went by at dizzy racing speed. I had never driven so fast before. But probably it was nothing new to them-there were two of them in the other car-for I was just coasting along in my newly acquired momentum when they came whizzing up on my left, gave me the horn and a loud laugh and went sailing by. It was a big and powerful car.

So!" I said to myself, almost delirious with the excitement. "They think they've got speed. Well, I'll show them something." I figured it out that they probably had greater maximum speed, but I thought my little car had quicker pick-up, regular bursts of speed. And I thought—Heaven help me!—I thought I could drive. Well, then commenced a race—it might have been for miles and miles, for at such a pace one covers the ground fast. There was practically no traffic on the road, notiing to prevent our continual jockeying with I was delighted with my car. each other. I passed the others and then they passed me, several times over. Finally they took the lead and held it for a time in spite of my efforts to get the jump on them. They anticipated, and started rolling before I could get the necessary speed. And apparently they knew the road well.

Finally I saw the opportunity to pass them, and accelerated for all my little car was worth. But this time they did not fight me off. I gave them the horn and went by, wide open. I wasn't quite sure that I saw the driver put out his hand. They hung back, and then I noticed that we were going a little down hill. Both cars had the bright lights turned on. Then I heard them honking the horn several times, violently, as I coasted on down the incline at racing speed. They did again, honking repeatedly. Only the second time did I catch on that this was intended as a warning to me. They knew the dangerous turn in the road, while I did not, and they were trying to save me. Then I put on the brakes, as my lights showed the turn in the road.

But the turn in the road came flying up in front of me quickly. Like an intoxicated driver, I did not know how fast I was

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of hey e oarI felt the car going off the road at the turn. I felt it sideswipe the fence, felt the obstruction give way and then I felt myself leaving the car and flying through the air in the darkness. Then I was falling I knew not where. Just how it happened that I was thrown clear of the car as it turned over to roll down the bank I cannot quite figure out—probably by some trick of centrifugal force. I recall a sensation of crashing through the leaves and branches of trees. Then there was a gigantic flash, like bursting fireworks

MY MIND is clear now, and I have been piecing the story together from memory. I think I had enough speed that memory. I think I had enough speed that night, whenever it was, to last me the rest I don't know when I will be able of my life. to buy another car now-but I don't care.

The other day, when I was still pretty weak, Julia came to see me. I guess she had seen me before, but this time, the nurse told me, she wanted to talk to me. The nurse first asked the doctor, and he told her to tell me. I just groaned. The very thought of Julia, with her suspicious eye, her unfounded, unreasonable jealousy, her insistence that she knew me through and through, and that she knew that I was mean and unfaithful—the very thought made me groan. With a quick perception the nurse went out and told her that I was not yet strong enough to see even

It seems that Julia came every day, asking about me, trying to see me, and did see me when I was unconscious. A few days later the nurse again told me that my wife was outside, and asked if I wanted to see her. I tried to shake my head, but it only rolled over weakly on the pillow. I couldn't quite hear what the nurse was saying, but I got the idea that Julia wanted to tell me that she was sorry. Sorry for what? I couldn't quite understand it. I opened my eyes and looked stand it. I opened my eyes and looked up and Julia was standing there, quietly, opened my eyes and looked I saw tears in her eyes. And I was pleased to see her. Julia, my friend, my wife somehow at this moment a different Julia from the one I had seen so much of in recent years, and who disapproved of me in every way. Why, this Julia standing in every way. Why, this Julia standing there now was the same Julia that I courted and married, years ago. Apparently there were two Julias. I was glad to see this one, all sympathy. She took my hand. I gave her hand a little squeeze with what teeble strength I had. Then she bent over and kissed me.

"I'm sorry, Jimmy," she whispered in my

ear.
"For what?" I asked. Probably for my

being here, weak and broken.

"It was all my fault," she said. Then she realized how weak I was, and said, "Now, just go to sleep and rest; I'll come



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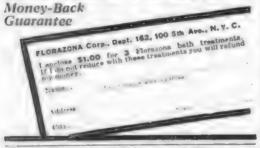
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The Pagan Bargain

[Continued from page 71]

masked man who moved gracefully through the orange dimness-a man who had about him all the reckless charm of that dusky race of Romany.

He might have been Jim for all of his wide shoulders that a gold-and-red trimmed black vest could not camouflage. But he was not my husband. Jim could never have made me catch my breath as this man did when he shut the door behind him and came toward me through the orange dim-

A SWEEPING bow, and he was sitting beside me on the yielding divan, indolently twisting tanned fingers, as he explained that I was his partner for the ball because of his good fortune in drawing

the mate to my earring.
"And you, I believe, have the mate of mine," he finished, taking the larger one of the two I dangled before him. Just that grazing touch of his hand and fire leaped in my veins. The Gypsy song that had throbbed through the dusk echoed deep in my heart.

We got up together, oblivious of the poured cocktails, and hung the rings from each other's ears, laughing softly at our efforts which, because of his nearness and touch, started an unknown little pulse rac-

ing in my temple.
"You are a Spanish Gypsy," he said, looking down at me through the slanted peepholes of his mask, "and though I may never see your eyes I would wager that they are deeper than the dark night of

Andalusian hills—"

He took the silver glass, staring down at me as if trying to penetrate my disguise. 'I am not doing any such thing. trying to get you to tell me that they are I think they are-deeper than the dark of night in Andalusian hills-

'It is a romantic way to say that I have black eyes. I—I rather like it since I spent several nights in the Andalusian hills

on my last trip to Spain—"
"Then you know Spain and, of course, realize why I say that you are a Spanish Gypsy?" he asked, lifting his glass upward

the gesture of a toast. His voice had a deep richness, like the tones of a cathedral organ. I found my-

self without an answer. "To you—and the spell of Spain that I have known in Seville; Barcelona; in the hills at night! For you are the same—the light that peers out of passion-eyed girls in the grape country; the enchantment of dawn flaming in Mediterranean skies!

he said. We drank his toast in the cocktail that had suddenly become nectar for me.
"There are certain rules, you know, that even we Gypsies have to abide by tonight," he began a few seconds later when we were comfortable on the couch. "We must were comfortable on the couch. appear at table twelve on the balcony at eight o'clock sharp. There we will dine with a party, none of whom we are to openly recognize until we unmask at mid-night. You and I are not supposed to tell each other our names until the hour of twelve. But I don't like this rule. It would be tragedy if-well, suppose a man has such a partner as you and some unforeseen thing happens to separate them before twelve? He'd be miserable the rest of his life if he failed to find you again.

"Ah! but wouldn't it be lots more fun and romantic, too," I told him, bubbling inwardly, "if we did stick to the rule. We can give each other names, real sounding Spanish names, and surely if anything should happen before twelve and we wanted to find each other again..."

to find each other again—"
"Suppose, then," he smiled, tilting his clean-cut chin, "suppose I call you by a

name that has for years intrigued me "Please do," I begged him, impulsiv taking his hands in mine for the momenta

"Then for tonight, at least, you shall Carmencita," he answered.

armencita," he answered.
"Carmencita," I repeated over and over "It is a pretty name and I am glad. No let me see, you must be Don somebo... mustn't you? Dons are always hat some young Spaniards, aren't they?"

"But, Señorita must remember that I am only a poor Gypsy of Spain. Why not call me—just plain Pedro?"
"Then it shall be Pedro."

We helped ourselves to another cocktail Then, Pedro, studying his wrist watch for a brief instant, said we must be going. We had spent our allowed fifteen minutes in the chamber. We must give way to the next couple. "What a romantic wa to acquaint partners with each other, remarked.

"Yes, and what a risky way! Suppose I had not been lucky enough to receive the mate of your earring?"

I looked at him through the slits of my We drifted through mask for an answer. the wide lounge to a tiny balcony that overlooked a formal garden. Beyond the sleeping flowers lay the Sound, purple in

the falling shadows.
"Once I stood on a balcony of old Barcelona and watched night come to the sea. The shadows drifted in from vague horizons like purpling sails. It was my imagination of course. It is now, for standing here by you I feel I am back on that Barcelona balcony. I wish it were true, and not mere imagination."

"Because Barcelona was quaint and ro mantic; because it brought dreams and desires to you, and because this is only the balcony of a modern club—and I am only an American woman. That is why you wish you were back in Barcelona—"

"You forget, Carmencita, that you are a Gypsy girl of Spain tonight."

"Then let us forget that the water out youder is only Long Island Sound. It is the sea beyond a balcony of old Barcelona. and you are really Pedro and I am really Carmencita," I whispered.

We leaned against the balustrade, our arms touching, and in this manner Pedro and I watched the shadows become purple sails and drift shoreward while mad Ro many music throbbed through the mystery of gathering night.

Dinner was over. We had danced twice to the sobbing of violins, the twanging of banjos and guitars, and the rumble of Oriental drums. Not once had I caught a glimpse of my masquerading husband. But, then there were over five hundred revelers, and, anyway, I probably would have passed Jim without notice, so intense had become my interest in Pedro.

THE music started again. When I arose to dance for the third time I was sure I understood what it means to own a Gypsy heart. We drifted out of the ballroom to a rear verandah, and from there down steep stone steps, and over a flagged walk to a grove that veiled the moon-lit water. We strolled, my arm thrust through his. The woods seemed scented; the stars danced overhead; and the swish of water against the shore became murmurous Gypsy voices whispering love and dreams.

We had passed out of the woods and were standing on a sort of point that seemed enchanted when he took my hand and pointed to two masqueraders on the shore. The man was Jim. I recognized him without so much as a gasp or start. 1112 VO 1110 kin ret

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He was only my husband, who had some-how, it seemed, failed to offer me romance. I did not seem to mind his kissing another voman. They had unmasked.

A canoe was gliding across a narrow tretch of water, heading toward a little island whose trees seemed like feathery giants asleep in the magical night. A kneeling man plied the paddle while a woman

strummed a guitar.

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Pedro's fingers strayed over my upturned face, tugging slightly at my mask. At their touch I deliberately lifted my lips to him. For a tiny instant I saw the stars reeling like drunken fire-flies against the heavens. My kiss was not one that a woman gives lightly to a man. And, Pedro's was one in which I found all the iascination of romance.

We wound our way back to the club, without a word. The magic of silence was still between us when we reached our little balcony, mute proof of the feeling our kisses had aroused. It was not until the orchestra struck up, and I suggested dancing so I might feel his arms around me or in that we detect the speak. again, that we dared speak. And then our voices had lost something of their former For even then, under our masks, Pedro and I had ceased to play at Romance!

A clock chimed a quarter to twelve as the dance ended. Fifteen minutes more and we would reveal what little we had been able to hide from each other beneath a pair of black masks, and two fictitious names. It would be thrilling to learn his names. It would be thrilling to learn his name—to hear him say that my eyes were really as deep as the dark of night in the Andalusian hills. But, before this happened I must go to the dressing-room and be sure of looking my best for the moment of revelation. I excused myself, promising to meet him on our balcony at midnight.

IN THE lounge I inhaled sharply at the sight of Jim being assisted toward the door by a fellow masquerader. He recognized me, saying in a sort of tortured voice that the chauffeur was expected any moment to take him home. Jim was feeling desperately ill from the effect of something he had eaten. Of course there was only one right thing for me to do. I took his arm thanking the massurander for his his arm, thanking the masquerader for his kindness. Jim tried to persuade me to remain, insisting that the chauffeur could take care of him. But my place was with

We dashed through the night, my eyes constantly filled with the vision of a tall man in Gypsy clothes waiting for me on a balcony we had made-believe overlooked the sea at Barcelona. It was Fate, I said, that had taken me away. But, surely, this same Fate would some day bring us together again. There would be another dance at the club next week-end. Perhaps my Pedro would be there!

If you belonged to the elite—which was of course the swiftest—set at the Roundrock Country Club, you invariably went to the Siward's luxurious suite Saturday evenings before dinner. There, according to such a seconding to such snatches of frothy gossip as I'd overheard since the Gypsy dance, you exaggerated your true capacity for absinthe-dashed cocktails—and got a leaping start in the general direction of whoever, or whatever, promised to turn the night into one wow of a party for you.

Consequently, I was quite thrilled when Jim burst into our room at the club from

golf with the news that we had just been invited to the Siwards. First of all, it meant a chance of getting in with the rowd that appealed most to us. Again, I had a strong premonition that Pedro ran with the Siward crowd, and that I would find him at their cocktail party. For six days I had treasured the romantic memory of that man, brazenly eager in my

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secret heart to be with him, and to make sure that never again would we be utterly lost from each other.

My first objective at the Siward party would be to find Pedro, or to make some casual inquiries that would reveal his identity. As to Jim's, I knew it in advance. Mrs. Margaret Sutcliff, the bronze-haired young widow who had been Jim's partner at the masquerade would be at the Siward's. She was an intimate friend of Mrs. Siward's. Secretly, I suspected it was her influence that had secured the invitation for us. She and Jim had been tearing around together ever since Tuesday when Doctor Blake let him up.

If the shocking truth must be told, and it should as it is part of my story, an almost pagan contract had existed between us for two years regarding our pleasure-seeking activities. Like many other young couples of our acquaintance, we went out to parties mutually agreed not to interfere

with each other's freedom.

Freedom is always one thing for the man involved—and quite another for the woman. That is, of course, if she is at all true to her fundamental nature. She has always gloried in having one man.

Shortly after seven we were ushered into the Siward's gorgeous bedlam. Such parties seem purposely given at times for the encouragement of better and bigger voices. This was one of those times. We shouted our acknowledgment of introductions, and were shouted at with great Then a committee that seemed especially empowered to separate husbands and wives, parted Jim and me.

I quickly searched the crowd for some sign of my Pedro. One thing was certain. The frothy gossip I'd heard concerning the Siward sessions had not been manufac-tured. Already the crowd was getting a leaping start toward its sundry objectives. I suddenly found myself the objective of three thinnish young fellows who reminded me of cake-eaters who had not eaten enough cake. If there are two types of men to be found around country clubs that I detest, one is the slick-haired cakeeater, and the other is the handsome young bachelor who conceitedly imagines every married woman recognizes her romantic ideal in him.

Of course the callow youths had to be suffered. They barricaded me in a corner until I seemed utterly cut off from the rest of the party-that is, if I expected the woman in cerise, a woman who frankly amazed me by her ability to drink and talk at the same time without suggesting she It was this same party in was gargling. cerise who quickly impressed me that men's locker rooms are not the only places to get the "low-down" dope on a club and its members.

A BOUT Hal Edgecomb," she was saying in a voice of slaughter, "don't ask me anything about that particular egg. He's persona non grata with me. O-U-Tout! That's where he stands with me. Someone said he was in Europe. He could be in—well—"

be in—well——"
"Ye gods! Peggy, you're in a sweet mood tonight. What's wrong? Been mixing drinks again?"

"No-it's not liquor, Rodney. You know I can take a little bit of everything aboard before it hits me," the cerise gowned one came back. "I always get profane at the came back. "I always get mention of Hal Edgecomb.

"Sorry I asked about him. Great Scott! A man never knows when he puts his foot in it these days. Sides change so fast. It's one man and woman one day. Somebody else the next! You were having a heavy affair with him last season-

"Well, my dear, that's all over. I admit no, Hal Edgecomb! he is a fascinating, handsome, devil. His eyes that I had never seen were But—" she paused to dramatize her next brown and they focused wistfully upon me.

words, "I learned that Hal Edgecomb is one of those conceited bachelors who plays around with married women because he says we're easy victims. It's simply a

Some new men began milling and swarming around us at that moment and I lost the balance of Peggy's outburst against Edgecomb. But I'd heard enough to know that if the fascinating gentleman in question ever came back from Europe, or elsewhere, and made any advances my way he would be in for the bump of his life. Already I could vision him. He was my detested type of handsome, conceited bachelor who just knew that married women couldn't resist his manly charms!

He was-Mrs. Huntington!" exclaimed Mr. Siward, interrupting my fast forming conception of the Edgecomb person. "I hope these boys are making you at home Here, I've brought two more men to your Mrs. Huntington, may I present Dick Finn and Hal Edgecomb-

I BOWED to the first man cordially, inwardly preparing to freeze over my acknowledgment of Edgecomb. I was determined to take some of the conceit out of him from the start, but I did not exactly freeze at the sight of him. It was as if I had suddenly looked upon the wreck of something that had been very beautiful—
a dream. For Hal Edgecomb was my Pedro of the Gypsy ball! You know how things can flash through the heart and mind in the twinkling of a second. Well, it was that way as I nodded to Edgecomb. Every moment we had spent together ... every word ... every gesture between us flared up like a flame of poignant mockery inside of me. He had played at romance with me, conceit and ugly conspiracy in his heart.

Whether it was a part of his game with women, or whether he was trying to play the role of gentleman for the moment, I could not say; but the man, handsome. debonair and poised like a shaft of flexible steel, made no sign that he recognized Carmencita in me. It is possible, of course, that my frigidity warned him recognition would not be welcome. However, I had not expected his kind to play such a role. It would have been more in keeping if he had immediately reminded me of what I

was now bent upon forgetting.

Perhaps, this and the fact that he soon bowed himself away were responsible for the sense of pique that overcame me at dinner. If Edgecomb had only given a sign or a word that he knew I was Carmencita things might have been different. As it was I became acutely aware of having to suppress a rebellious mood all during dinner, for paradoxically enough I rebelled at the way he had ignored me. Immediately after finishing the first dance with one of the cake-eaters, I excused myself. I wanted to be alone. Pique was Pique was still eating into my pride like raw acid when I reached my little balcony. Anger, too, was rampant in my heart. He had was rampant in my heart. carried on his game with me-made somewhat of a fool of mc. Then and there I decided to strike back at him-to let him play his game then turn upon him with the ugly truth.

Nor did my pique and anger lessen as I leaned upon the balustrade and drank in the silver glory of the summer night. My thoughts filled helplessly with memories of a week before-memories that I still yearned to link with Pedro, but which became poison when associated with Hal Edgecomb. I turned away from the vision of gardens, trees, and silvered Sound, and found myself face to face with Pedro-





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Cynically, I realized that he had that intriguing gift of the eyes. He could look wistful, the surest way to arouse a woman's interest. I am sure we must have stood there in strained silence for several moments, long enough, at any rate, for me to realize that his fascination had not been

a spell cast by Romany clothes and music.
"Back there at the Siwards," he began, gesturing with his fine head, "I was just as sure as I am now. But it was, and still is, for you to say whether or not I am

WHETHER or not you are to recognize Carmencita in me," I cut in, suddenly realizing danger in the charm of his voice. "Well, what do you think?" I asked, laying my first trap. If his answer proved he believed I was eager to continue where we left off last Saturday I would launch my first attack. But the man fooled me, impressing me with the fact that he

me, impressing me with the fact that he was a strategist in his game of women.

"When a promise is broken as you broke yours last Saturday night, one does not know exactly what to think," he answered.

"My husband was ill. I had to rush away with him," I explained.

"I am sorry," was all he said for the moment, his eyes drifting dreamily beyond the balustrade. Isn't it queer how a woman

the balustrade. Isn't it queer how a woman can feel the romantic fascination of a man, and tell herself in the same breath that she hates him?

"Carmencita," he breathed, "I wish that this was still old Barcelona—that last Saturday night had stood still——"
"So do I, Pedro," I found myself saying, meaning I wished I'd never learned the

truth about him.

"We aren't Spanish Gypsies. Our masks are gone. But, to me there is no difference. You are still of the spell of

Spain-"
"There is no difference, Pedro," I whispered, knowing there was no difference in the attitude of his heart. He was still toy-ing with what he looked upon as an ad-venture with "safe prev." Well, he could play his game until he gave himself away. Give him time enough and he would. His kind always do sooner or later. In his moment of assumed triumph, my lash would fall.

We were leaving the balcony to dance when he swept me into his arms. For one exalted moment I shut my eyes and gave Pedro my lips. Then I slipped from him.

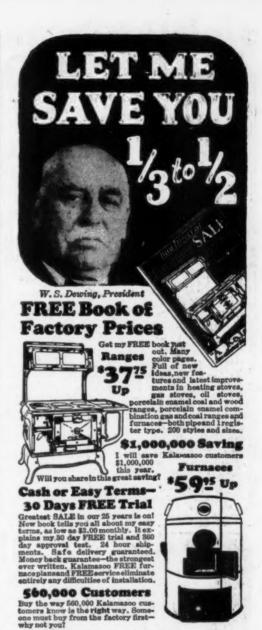
Two weeks passed—two weeks that had brought Hal Edgecomb close to the position I eagerly wished for at some time, and desperately wished postponement of at You can understand this complexity of wishes when I confess he seemed so obvious on occasions until I seethed with the desire to confound him with my hate of him, and my knowledge of his ugly intentions. Again, he enchanted me with a memory that I did not want to die—a memory of our night as Carmencita and

Now it was Monday of our third week together. We had been seeing each other daily on the beach; the golf course; the dance floor. We had taken rides together, and loafed in the moonlight.

He had planned a round of golf; a swim; and dinner at the Club for this Monday . . . At nine we arose from the table and sauntered toward the beach. Jim passed us on the way, a strange little expression on his face as he bowed. I had seen very little of him lately on the joint account of Mrs. Sutcliff and Hal Edgecomb.

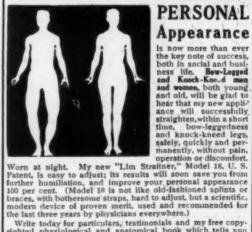
"I like your husband very much, Margie, said Hal. "He's regular to the core—"
"Most men like him, Hal," I answered,

nother one of my premonitions warning



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me that Hal and I were standing on the brink of that inevitable moment.

We were sitting on the sand when Hal began talking, his voice deeper and more serious than ever. For a few moments, what he said was negligible. Then suddenly he stopped beating around the bush.

"What are you doing tomorrow after-noon, Margie?" he asked.

'Nothing of particular importance. We had not planned anything you know-

"Margie, there is something of vast importance to both of us that I'd like to talk over with you-tomorrow afternoon. I-can't very well explain it all herenow. But you know I have a studio apart-ment over on Park Avenue. Will you meet me there at three tomorrow afternoon, Margie?

HAD been trembling ever since he mentioned the word "apartment." Now, with his question ringing in my ears, I felt as if some invisible power were throttling me. It was the suppressed desire to turn upon him, and tell him how his despicable game had failed, that sent me to my feet quaking in every limb and fibre.

There is no use of my repeating here verbatim what I said to Hal Edgecomb down there on the beach. But if ever a woman's tongue has been a stinging lash, mine was. I know that I stabbed him with the word "cad" several times. I know I told him that he had not stalked "safe prey" in me. I remember I left him standing somewhat like a suddenly stricken statue, his arms half-outstretched.

A few moments later, my nerves in an uproar, I started my roadster and bowled over the white ribbon of road for home. Of course I had expected what finally happened—the break between Hal Edgecomb and myself-but it had come about a bit more brutally than I anticipated. never thought he would have dared invite me to his apartment on the pretext of talking over some matter.

The despicable cad," I grated, swinging

the car up our driveway.

Nervous excitement sent me flying up the stairs to my room where I hoped to calm myself in the event of a meeting with my husband. A half-hour passed and there was no sign of Jim around, and the big house seemed deserted. A sudden impulse sent me to his door. I knocked. There was no answer. Still the lights were burning. Jim could not be asleep. I opened the door softly and entered. A scene of disorder met my eyes.

High-boy and bureau drawers were halfpulled out, all manner of clothing and haberdashery dangling from their edges. The bed was littered with apparently discarded clothes. It was indeed a scene that suggested the packing of some clothes, and a hurried departure.

My husband had gone away! The conclusion was like electricity in my veins. gasped, then half-ran to the high-boy, my thoughts filling with a vision of Jim and the bronze-haired Mrs. Sutcliff going off some place—together! My dancing eyes glimpsed an envelope addressed to me. snatched it from the top of the high-boy,

and tore it open. A strange sinking sensa-tion assailed the pit of my stomach as I began reading:

Dear Margie :-I am going away. Most likely to laris. It will be best for all con-erned. Edgecomb seems to be a nighty white sort of chap. The way Paris. cerned. mighty white sort of chap. The way he came to me about the whole thing makes me feel certain that you will be very happy with him. Unknown to I accidentally came upon Edgecomb holding you in his arms last Thursday night, overhearing both your protestations of love. He discovered

my accidental presence and came to me the next day, confessing the truth of things. He asked me point-blank if would thwart your request for a divorce, saying that in view of my attentions to Mrs. Sutcliff he thought it would be to the advantage of all concerned to give you your freedom. Naturally, under the circumstances, I promised no intervention on my part. It was his plan to have you meet his lawyer at his apartment "tomorrow (Tuesday) at three o'clock and discuss the situation. In view of the fact that he intended acquainting you with all of this tonight, I thought it advisable for me to check out. Doing this will save all concerned, especially you, the embarrassment such a situation generally creates.

With my best wishes for your hap-

Jim.

The high-boy mirror showed that my face had suddenly gone white. The note fluttered to the floor emphasizing the fact that another spell of trembling had seized Dazedly my mind realized two stark

Hal Edgecomb had made love in all honesty to me, and I had damned him unjustly. Jim, my husband, was going away to give us both freedom so that he could marry Margaret Sutcliff, and I could

marry Hal.

Somehow I stumbled to my room, over shadowed by these two realizations, and fell across my bed, unable to free the sobs that stuck like dry torture in my throat. I lay there, wide-eyed until the dawn began stealing through my windows like a gray ghost. Then I staggered to my feet and wandered out into the garden.

They say a woman really never knows her own mind and heart. I had never known mine until that morning in the garden when the gray dawn flamed and sprayed the shadows with dancing crimson; until the bird songs enraptured the But knowledge came to me then, trees. miraculously, you may say. And you may be right. For it is indeed a miracle when a blind woman sees and understands.

I knew then that I really loved my hus band; that I had been as deliberately blind to his appeal as I had been to the truth of Hal Edgecomb's feelings toward me. knew that I had shut my eyes to Jim because he was my husband, even as I had shut my eyes to the real Hal because a woman's tongue had damned him. Hal was due an apology from me. He would get it, I decided.

HEN pain spread through my heart as I remembered all that I had refused to recognize in my own husband as the things I had sought in some other man-Pedro, for instance. There was Jim's big good-looking self; his boyish enthusiasm for Life; his infectious laugh; his bigness of heart; his tenderness at times. They were all things that I could love in a man, and now they were being taken from me. They were being given to another woman-Margaret Sutcliff!

I went inside and penned Hal Edgecomb an apology for my tirade. It was an honest confession of everything, and I begged him to accept it as I was giving it, in all sincerity. Then I called Jim's New York club. He was not in his room. It seems he had not been in it all night. The bed was untouched . . . A bronze-colored mist swam before my eyes for a few seconds. I think Margaret Sutcliff's name sneered itself into my consciousness. Then at a question over the wire my vision cleared while a bomb seemed bursting in my ear.
"This is Mrs. Sutcliff, isn't it?" asked

the voice at the club.

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I said. "Yes." There was no hesitation

in my answer.

"Mr. Huntington said you would call early. There's a message from him. He said he had secured accommodations on The Paris, sailing at noon today, and that he would meet you at the regular place at

"Thank you," I cut in, hanging up the receiver without so much as saying good-

So they were sailing together on *The Paris* at noon, and were to meet at ten in their regular rendezvous! I could not prevent the latter for I had no idea where their rendezvous might be. But I could prevent them from sailing together on The Paris, and I was going to if I had to pull every strand of bronze hair out of her impertinent head.

The chart near the purser's office gave me Jim's stateroom. It was forward on the promenade deck. I hurried to his accommodations, bursting in without so much as a moment's hesitation. I was all set to sail right into Margaret Sutcliff. she was not inside, and I found Jim looking up at me in a bewildered sort of way

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leared asked from his business of putting away clothes.
"Margie!" he cried as if I were a ghost.
He actually seemed to be shrinking away from me, as if in the presence of the supernatural.

"Where is she, Jim? I mean Margaret Sutcliff," I said, going right to the point. "Margaret! Oh!" he exclaimed, straightening up. "Why, I guess she's home by now. I—I—left her at the Hotel Roosevelt after saying good-bye—"
"She's not going to France with you

"She's not going to France with you, Jim?" I demanded. "Good Lord, no, Margie. Why should

"If your attention to her during the past three weeks hadn't put the thought in

my mind, your note of last night would have turned the trick-

"But I never said anything in it about her going with me. And I've done nothing more than dance, golf, and dine with her these last few weeks-

"You kissed her the night of the Gypsy I saw you down on the beach-she

was the woman—"
"Margie, I am going to tell you the truth, although I'm still baffled at your coming here like this. I only kissed Margaret that once. She allowed me because she's a good sport, but right afterward she told me about her husband. I knew him in France before he was knocked off by machine-gun fire. She buried her heart in his grave. That's the answer to that. We were good friends,-and-well, you busy. So it was something to do. Then he came and told me everything. Is he with you now, Margie?

NO, HE'S not with me, Jim. He'll-he'll never be with me again. I—ol Jim! I've been such a blind little fool all the time," I blurted.
"Blind, Margie?"

"Yes, Jim; blind to the truth about you -about myself——" My voice was breaking and I could hardly go on. But I was determined that he should hear the "I-love you, truth from my own lips. Jim. I came here to keep you from going away with her. Now, I'm going to keep

you from going alone—"
"Margie!" he was saying. "Then, we've both been blind, although I've known all the time that I really loved you. I only agreed to our bargain for freedom because you proposed it. Come on, Margie, let's go away together-to France-to Spainwhere we can open our eyes and our hearts to each other again. Please, Margie," he begged, unaware that The Paris was already away from her pier.

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